



**AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY
AND
IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY**

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

Man fined \$10,000 for importing zebra dove without licence

8 November 2017: 74-year-old Lian Kin Ting was fined \$10,000 for illegally importing a zebra dove, and for subjecting the bird to unnecessary suffering and pain. This is the first time that the maximum penalty of \$10,000 is meted out for illegally importing animals or live birds. In 2009, Lian was fined \$3,000 for importing seven zebra doves without a licence.

2. On 1 Feb 2017, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) was notified by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers on the detection of a zebra dove at Tuas Checkpoint. The dove was found hidden in a pouch beneath the driver's seat of the Singapore-registered car.



The dove was found in a pouch under the driver's seat. (AVA photo)



The Zebra Dove (AVA photo)

3. AVA's investigations found that the bird was imported without a valid licence. There was no food and water provided for the bird in the pouch, and it was found to have experienced significant stress. The bird is now under the care of the Jurong Bird Park.

4. Animals that are smuggled into Singapore are of unknown health status and may introduce diseases, such as bird flu, into the country. The importation of any animals or live birds without an AVA permit is illegal and carries a maximum penalty of \$10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to one year.

5. Our borders are our first line of defence in safeguarding Singapore's safety and security. The security checks are critical to our nation's security. The ICA will continue to conduct security checks on passengers and vehicles at the checkpoints to prevent attempts to smuggle in undesirable persons, drugs, weapons, explosives and other contrabands. The ICA and AVA would like to remind travellers against bringing live animals, birds and insects into Singapore without a proper permit. The public can refer to AVA's [website](#) or download AVA's mobile app, SG TravelKaki (available free-of-charge from [iTunes](#) and the [Google Play store](#)), for more information on bringing back animals from overseas.

**ISSUED BY THE AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY AND THE
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On 8 November 2017