

## **Man fined \$10,000 for sale of illegal food products**

6 September 2017: 41-year-old Ang Kok Leong was fined \$10,000 in court today for the sale of illegal food products – pig’s blood and uncooked embryonated/fertilised duck eggs, commonly known as ‘balut’.

2        Acting on a tip-off, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) conducted an inspection at Ang’s flat on 26 April 2017. 15.6 kilograms of pig blood products and 857 pieces of ‘balut’ were detected in his premises. The illegal food products were seized and subsequently destroyed.



# MEDIA RELEASE



*15.6 kilograms of pig's blood products and 857 pieces of 'balut' were seized (photos: AVA)*

3 The import of food is regulated for animal health and food safety reasons. Meat, eggs, and their products, can only be imported from accredited sources in approved countries that comply with our food safety standards and requirements. Currently, there are no approved sources of 'balut' eggs.

4 In addition, animal blood food products, such as pig's blood, are prohibited in Singapore as blood can easily support the growth of bacteria and harbour diseases. Unhygienic harvesting of blood can also result in the introduction of food borne pathogens into blood food products.

5 Illegally imported food products are from unknown sources. Apart from being a food safety risk, they also may pose a risk to our public and animal health. Any person who illegally imports meat products, including 'balut' eggs and pig's blood products, from unapproved sources is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and/or 2 years jail term or to both for first conviction, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

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