



**AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY
AND IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY
JOINT NEWS RELEASE**

Man fined for illegal import of bird

43-year-old Hairolhisham Bin Sa'don was fined \$5,000 by the court for the illegal import of a bird into Singapore without a licence. A second charge of failure to ensure that the animal was not subjected to unnecessary suffering was taken into consideration.

2 On 9 February 2018, Hairolhisham was stopped by officers from the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) for checks at Woodlands Checkpoint. The officers detected one live Red-whiskered Bulbul cramped in a paper packet, which was placed in a drawstring pouch and hidden in a handbag.

3 Hairolhisham did not have an import licence issued by the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) for the import of the bird. AVA also found that the manner of transportation caused unnecessary suffering to the bird. The bird was seized and placed under the care of Wildlife Reserves Singapore.





Caption: The Red-whiskered Bulbul was smuggled in a paper packet, which was placed in a drawstring bag and hidden in a handbag (photo source: AVA).

Public advisory

4 Animals that are smuggled into Singapore are of unknown health status and may introduce exotic diseases, such as bird flu, into the country. Travellers are reminded that smuggling animals and birds into Singapore is an offence. Any person, on conviction, is liable to a fine of up to S\$10,000, or imprisonment of up to 12 months or to both.

5 Our borders are our first line of defence in safeguarding Singapore's security. 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. AVA would like to remind travellers against the illegal import of live animals, birds and insects into Singapore to safeguard public and animal health. 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 travels.

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