



## THE AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY AND IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY

### JOINT NEWS RELEASE

#### **Man sentenced to 30 weeks imprisonment for smuggling 11 puppies into Singapore and animal cruelty**

**7 June 2017:** A 43-year-old man, Ravichandran Muthusamy, was sentenced to 30 weeks imprisonment for illegally importing 11 puppies into Singapore. He was also sentenced to 20 weeks imprisonment for subjecting the puppies to unnecessary pain or suffering. Both sentences will run concurrently.

2 On 23 March 2017, at about 9pm, a Malaysia-registered car, driven by Ravichandran, was directed for further checks upon arrival at the Woodlands Checkpoint.

3 During the inspection, officers from the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) found 11 puppies hidden in a modified fuel tank of the car. The case was referred to the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) for investigations.

4 AVA's investigations found that Ravichandran had been commissioned to smuggle the puppies to an unknown person in Singapore. He was instructed to drive the car into Singapore with the hidden puppies. There was no food or water provided for the puppies in the modified compartment of the car, which was cramped and had limited space for the puppies to move. The 11 puppies are currently being cared for and quarantined at AVA's facilities.

#### **Public advisory**

5 Animals that are smuggled into Singapore are of unknown health status and may introduce exotic diseases, such as rabies, 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.

6 Our borders are our first line of defence in safeguarding Singapore's 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.

7 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 travels.

**Issued by the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore and  
Immigration & Checkpoints Authority**

*7 June 2017*

Photographs







**Caption:** Recent pictures of the smuggled puppies