



9 June 2016

### **Man sentenced to six months jail for smuggling puppies and animal cruelty**

A Malaysian man was sentenced to six months jail in court today for importing six puppies into Singapore without the relevant import permits. He was also sentenced to three months jail for subjecting the puppies to unnecessary suffering or pain. Both sentences will run concurrently.

2 On 19 May 2016, at about 11.15pm, a Malaysia-registered car, driven by 42-year-old Muhammad Adam Yap Bin Abdullah, was directed for further checks upon arrival at the Woodlands Checkpoint. During the inspection, ICA officers uncovered six live puppies (four poodles and two shih tzus) hidden in a modified compartment underneath the rear passenger seat of the car. The man, puppies and vehicle were referred to the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) for investigations.

3 Investigation revealed that the puppies were cramped into a small modified compartment without any food and water. They were placed on a towel with ice in plastic bottles and newspapers beneath it to keep them cool. There were also two hoses for air circulation running to the engine compartment. The six puppies are being cared for and undergoing quarantine at AVA's Sembawang Animal Quarantine Station.

4 Dr Jan Yong, Deputy Director of AVA's Quarantine Department said, "These puppies will have to be quarantined to observe for clinical signs of infectious diseases such as rabies. As rabies has a long incubation period, the puppies will be

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quarantined for minimum of 100 days. The puppies' health is being closely monitored at AVA's Sembawang Animal Quarantine Station (SAQS). We will then work with our rehoming partners to rehome those that are of suitable health and temperament."

5 Animals that are smuggled into Singapore are of unknown health status. In the case of dogs and cats, the foremost concern is rabies, a fatal viral disease, which can be transmitted to humans by the bite of a rabid animal. Singapore has been free from rabies for since 1953 but we cannot be complacent as the disease is endemic in the region.

6 To import an animal into Singapore, the animal needs to meet AVA's import conditions, including vaccination and health certification requirements. Depending on the country of export, certain animals will have to undergo post-arrival quarantine at SAQS. AVA's rigorous system of quarantine and health checks on imported animals mitigates the risk of exotic animal diseases from entering Singapore. The importation of any animals without an AVA permit is illegal and carries a maximum penalty of \$10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to one year.

7 The 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**

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Photographs



ICA photo: 6 live puppies hidden in a modified compartment underneath rear passenger seat



AVA photo: Puppies were placed on a towel with ice in plastic bottles and two hoses for air circulation

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AVA photo: Puppies undergoing health checks at AVA's Sembawang Animal Quarantine Station

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