



13 June 2016

Singaporean man jailed three months for smuggling birds and for animal cruelty

A Singaporean man was sentenced today to three months in jail for illegally importing three Red-whiskered Bulbul birds from Malaysia into Singapore. 47-year-old Jalal Bin Basiron Samad was also sentenced to three months in jail for subjecting the said birds to unreasonable or unnecessary pain or suffering. Both sentences will run concurrently.

2 On 4 March 2016, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) was notified by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) on the detection of three live birds kept inside a green colored haversack underneath the front passenger's seat of a taxi. Jalal had arrived in the Malaysia registered private taxi. Physical examinations identified the birds as Red-whiskered bulbul birds.

3 Two of the birds were squeezed individually inside two small PVC pipes measuring 15cm x 4cm. A small piece of green nylon netting was wrapped around the two pipes and secured together with rubber bands. The other bird was wrapped tightly inside a paper measuring 19 cm x 8 cm x 6 cm, and stapled with a stapler to secure it. There was no food and water provided for the birds.

4 For importing the three live birds from Malaysia without a licence and subjecting them to unreasonable or unnecessary pain or suffering, he could have been

MEDIA RELEASE

sentenced to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to one year for each charge.

5 To date, Singapore is one of the few countries in the region to remain free from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), or bird flu. For trade and public health purposes, AVA maintains its bird flu-free status through strict import regulations and enforcement, and by working closely with partner enforcement agencies to deter illegal import across borders. Enforcement actions will be taken against any person flouting the laws.

Public Advisory

6 AVA would like to remind the public against bringing live animals or birds into Singapore without a permit from AVA. AVA has strict regulatory requirements for the import of live animals and birds due to animal health reasons and to prevent the introduction of diseases, especially Avian Influenza or bird flu. Ornamental birds can only be imported from countries that are free from notifiable avian influenza. In addition, the birds must be tested to be free from avian influenza virus and must undergo a 21-day pre-export quarantine prior to export to Singapore. These measures help to maintain Singapore's bird flu free status. 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.

7 While AVA continues to ensure that regulatory measures against illegal import, trade or possession of live animals/birds/wildlife are in place and properly enforced, the public can play their part too. Members of the public with information on such activities can contact AVA at 6805 2992 or via AVA's [online feedback form](#). All information shared with AVA will be kept strictly confidential.

Issued by Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority

13 June 2016

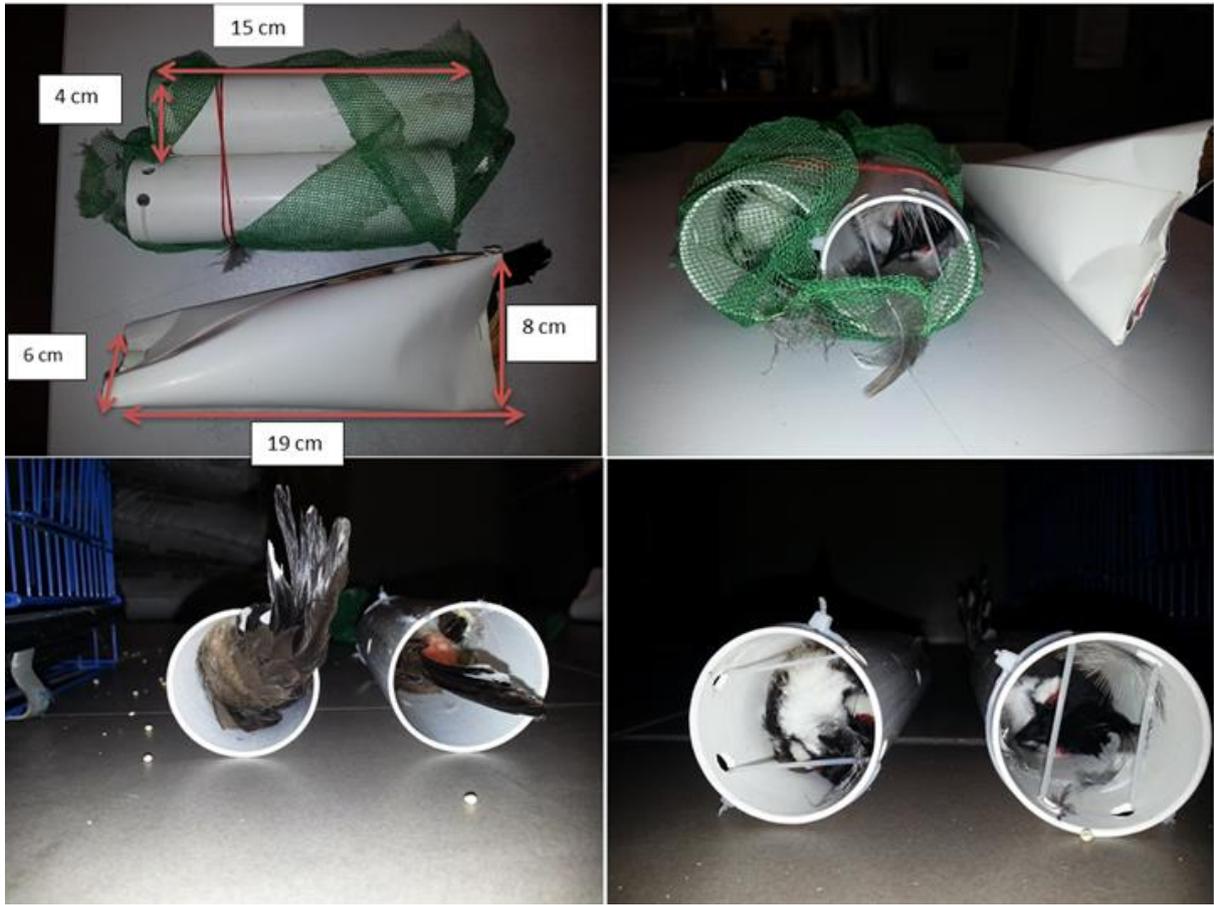
MEDIA RELEASE

Annex



AVA Photo: Birds were found in green haversack

MEDIA RELEASE



AVA Photo: Birds found in PVC pipes

MEDIA RELEASE