



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woman fined \$6,900 for keeping exotic wildlife

31 May 2017: A 32-year-old woman, Tai Qi Hui, was fined a total of S\$6,900 by the Court today for 1 charge of the possession of an endangered species and 9 charges of keeping wild animals. She was fined \$1,500 for the charge of possessing an endangered species and \$600 for each charge of keeping wild animals. 7 other charges of keeping wild animals were taken into consideration.

2 On 11 July 2016, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) acted on a tip-off, and investigated the alleged online sales of illegal wildlife by the woman. After monitoring her online activities, AVA officers performed a raid on the woman's residence and confiscated a total of 17 illegal wildlife specimens, comprising 14 exotic lizards, a snake, an ornate horned frog and an endangered Veiled Chameleon. The animals are currently in the care of the Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS).

3 The keeping of wild animals such as exotic amphibians, snakes and lizards are not allowed in Singapore. Wild animals are not suitable pets as some may transmit zoonotic diseases to humans and can be a public safety risk if mishandled, or if they escape into our dense urban environment. In addition, wild animals that are non-native to Singapore may also be a threat to our bio-diversity if released into the environment. Demand for such animals would fuel illegal wildlife trade, which severely impacts the wild populations of numerous species.

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

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Photograph



Caption: Picture of the veiled chameleon

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Caption: Picture of the Central Bearded Dragon

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