



**AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY  
AND  
IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY**

**JOINT NEWS RELEASE**

**Singaporean man sentenced to three months imprisonment for smuggling  
birds and animal cruelty**

27 October 2016: A 29-year-old Singaporean man, Muhammad Farhan bin Abdullah, was sentenced on 26 October 2016 to 3 months imprisonment for illegally importing 3 Red-whiskered Bulbul birds, and 3 months imprisonment for subjecting the birds to unnecessary suffering or pain. Both sentences will run concurrently.

2 On 6 June 2016, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) was notified by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers at the Woodlands Checkpoint on the detection of three live birds. The birds were found hidden inside three small boxes beneath the carpet of the front passenger seat, as well as under the rear passenger seats of a Singapore-registered car.



Caption: Box with the bird hidden beneath the carpet of the front passenger seat  
(Photo: ICA)



Caption: Two more boxes with birds hidden under rear passenger seats (Photo: ICA)



Caption: All three boxes found with birds hidden in them (Photo: ICA)

3 AVA investigated and confirmed that the Red-whiskered Bulbul birds were imported without an AVA permit. As part of the investigation, the birds were tested and found to be free from Avian Influenza. The birds have been successfully rehomed to Jurong Bird Park.



Caption: AVA seized the three smuggled Red-whiskered Bulbul birds as part of our investigation (Photo: AVA)

4        Animals that are smuggled into Singapore are of unknown health status and may introduce exotic diseases, 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.

5        Our borders are our first line of defence in safeguarding Singapore's safety and 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. The ICA and AVA would like to remind travellers not to bring 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.

**ISSUED BY THE AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY AND THE  
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