



**PRESS RELEASE**

29 April 2015

**TIGER PARTS TRADE ON THE DECLINE IN SINGAPORE SHOPS**

SINGAPORE, 29 April 2015 – A two-month undercover investigation by the ACRES Animal Crime Investigation Unit has revealed a significant decline in the trade in tiger parts in shops in Singapore.

Conducted between March and April 2015, ACRES found only 4 out of 153 (2.6%) jewellery and antique shops in Singapore offering alleged tiger teeth and claws for sale. This as compared to a similar ACRES investigation in 2010 where 59 out of 134 (44.0%) jewellery and antique shops in Singapore offering alleged tiger parts for sale.

Details of the investigation and all the evidence collected have been forwarded to the Agri-food and Veterinary Authority (AVA).

Jewellery and antique shops were targeted in the 2010 and 2015 investigations as tiger parts are sought-after by reason of the belief that they bring good luck to the bearer, and will protect the bearer against evil.

During the covert island-wide investigation this year, more than half of the shopkeepers approached told investigators that the sale of tiger parts was prohibited by authorities, or required permits. Several shopkeepers said they stopped selling tiger parts after the authorities fined them and confiscated their products several years ago. 1 shopkeeper claimed to have known of the prohibition because of an investigation conducted by an animal welfare organisation about 5 years ago.

Even the shops found during the 2015 investigations to be offering alleged tiger parts for sale did so knowing it was illegal. A total of 13 pieces of alleged tiger parts were offered for sale and prices ranged from S\$70 to S\$538.

What stands out from the 2015 investigations is that the enforcement action by the AVA following the 2010 ACRES investigation raised awareness among shopkeepers that it was illegal to sell tiger parts, and likely deterred future sales even 5 years on.

But we cannot rest on our laurels as the trade in tiger parts has evolved online, and grows ominously by the day. We must now move our efforts to urgently break the virtual trade of tiger parts, in order to protect the last of our remaining tigers. In a brief online survey conducted by ACRES on 28 April 2015, a total of 14 online advertisements were found offering tiger parts for sale in Singapore.

Mr Louis Ng, Chief Executive of ACRES, said, "It is positive that there is a significant decline in the trade in tiger parts in shops in Singapore. We look forward to partnering AVA and are confident of completely wipe out this illicit trade here. The public also plays an important role, we hope that people will stop buying tiger parts and also help be our extra eyes and ears on the ground. If they spot anyone selling tiger parts, they can call ACRES at our hotline 9783 7782 to report it to us."

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**Notes to editors**

- ACRES is a pioneering Singapore-based charity and Institution of Public Character, founded by Singaporeans in 2001 and advocating for an end to animal cruelty in Asia.
- All 6 tiger species (Siberian, South China, Indo-Chinese, Sumatran, Malayan and Bengal tigers) are listed on Appendix I of CITES, meaning no commercial trade is allowed.
- Photos and videos of the undercover investigation are available on request.

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