

**Bernama**

2 June 2010

**Man caught selling bear gall bladder at Singapore Food Expo**

*By Zakaria Abdul Wahab*

A man was caught selling an alleged bear gall bladder, a banned commercial product, at an ongoing Singapore food expo, here yesterday.

Singapore's Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) officers rushed to the expo site and seized the product after the local-based Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES) reported the matter.

In a statement today, ACRES said it received a tip-off from a member of the public on its 24-hour Wildlife Crime Hotline at 4.30pm yesterday with regard to a stall at the Singapore Food Expo selling a bear gall bladder. ACRES responded immediately and its investigators arrived at the scene within 30 minutes.

The investigators were told by the seller that the gall bladder, selling for S\$700, was from a bear and was brought in from China.

He had only one gall bladder left as he had already sold the rest, ACRES said, adding that if it placed an order the seller could get more gall bladders delivered to Singapore.

All bears are protected species and all commercial trade in bear products have been banned by CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) which Singapore is a party to.

Previous ACRES undercover investigations in 2001 and 2006 revealed the presence of an illegal trade in alleged bear products in Singapore, with 73.5 percent and 20 percent of the traditional Chinese medicine shops surveyed respectively selling alleged bear products.

Under AVA's Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (ESA), it is an offence for anyone to advertise for sale any bear products even if the products turn out to be not authentic, and is liable to a \$50,000 fine.