

## **TODAY**

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### **AVA seizes alleged bear gall bladder, seller at Expo caught on video**

*By Mustafa Shafawi*

SINGAPORE – A gall bladder, allegedly from a bear in China, was seized by the authorities from a food exhibition on Tuesday.

Investigators from the Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (Acres) received a tip-off from a member of the public.

They visited the vendor at the Singapore Food Expo and were told by the seller that the gall bladder that he was selling for \$700 was from a bear and had been brought in from China.

He had only one gall bladder left as he had already sold the rest. The seller said he could order more and have them delivered to Singapore.

The incident was recorded on video.

Acres passed the information to the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) whose officers responded immediately and seized the product.

Bear products have been banned by the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which Singapore is a party to.

AVA is investigating the case.

Previous Acres undercover investigations in 2001 and 2006 revealed the presence of an illegal trade in alleged bear products in Singapore.

About 20 per cent of traditional Chinese medicine shops surveyed in 2006 sold alleged bear products.