

## **My Paper**

01 October 2010

### **More going online to sell exotic wildlife illegally**

*By Christina Ng*

Three websites in S'pore were found to be carrying ads offering illegal animals.

THOSE who illegally sell exotic animals and animal parts online are getting bolder.

Three people have been caught trying to sell tiger skins and even a live hedgehog online over the past two weeks.

As part of a sting operation, the Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (Acres) and the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) called the sellers to arrange a transaction, and found it very easy to get the advertised products.

The illegal wares were seized by AVA and the sellers are now under investigation.

Mr Louis Ng, 32, executive director of Acres, said: "It's the first time that Acres has done a sting operation to catch sellers who have gone online to advertise their illegal items."

He added that three websites in Singapore were recently found to be carrying ads offering illegal animals and animal parts. Two of the sites dropped the ads after receiving a warning from Acres.

The online trade in such products has been booming since last year, with Acres getting tip-offs at least once a month about websites offering exotic animals and animal parts for sale.

Anyone who has information about the illegal wildlife trade here should call AVA on 6227-0670.