

## **Channel News Asia**

30 Sep 10

### **Tiger skins and hedgehog seized in ACRES sting operation**

SINGAPORE: Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES) undercover officers seized tigers skins and one hedgehog in three sting operations.

The products were being advertised for sale online by three different sellers.

Posing as buyers, ACRES' officers conducted the sting operations in Hougang, Choa Chu Kang and Serangoon respectively.

A Chinese man offered to sell the hedgehog, which cannot be kept or sold as pets in Singapore, for \$150.

An Indian man offered to sell a whole tiger skin for \$400 while a Chinese woman tried to sell pieces of alleged tigers skins for \$128 each.

The items were seized by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority.

Director of ACRES Wildlife Crime Unit, Anbarasi Boopal, said these seizures together with the major seizures of alleged tiger parts in Singapore in March this year have put a huge dent in the illegal wildlife trade.

All commercial tiger trade has been banned since 1987 by the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Singapore is a party to the convention.

Anyone who advertises any tiger parts for sale contravenes Singapore's Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (ESA), even if the products turn out to be unauthentic.

Louis Ng, ACRES Executive Director, said the illegal wildlife trade appears to be going online and the organisation will continue to monitor and take action to wipe out this trade.

If convicted, they can be fined up to \$10,000 per species and jailed for up to a year.

Penalties on conviction are a fine of \$1,000 per animal.