

GUN-TOTING ARMADILLO REFUSED ENTRY



Customs officers seized a unique item of wildlife which breached both the laws of good taste and international wildlife protection.

In this case the item was being imported as a gift. Customs seized the armadillo and issued a warning to the addressee.

While screening international air cargo in Sydney, Customs officers found the unique item in a package from Texas, USA, destined for an Adelaide address.

The import and export of wildlife into and out of Australia is regulated under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The stuffed armadillo was complete with toy pistols, cowboy hat and sheriff's badge.

While bad taste should have been enough of a reason not to attempt to bring the armadillo into the country, it is also illegal to import the item without a permit.

Customs Regional Director for South Australia Virginia Lynch said, "Armadillos are a protected species listed under the Convention for the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). Australia supports the convention".

CITES protects over 30,000 species of animals and plants worldwide.