

## **Federal Agents Searching in Pennsylvania For Illegally Imported Fly-River Turtles**

Based on article by John Shiffman , Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Writer  
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Based on information supplied by Carlton Phelps, a former warehouse manager who said he has been selling wildlife for about a year, earning \$7,000 a month, Federal agents recently began an investigation of the illegal trade in fly-river turtles.

Though no arrests have been made, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Howard Wiener, agents searched homes in Williamstown, Gloucester County, and Pittsburgh including that of Carlton Phelps.

The investigation began when authorities intercepted a package from Singapore addressed to the home of Phelps' girlfriend in Williamstown. Inside, authorities said, they found 10 Fly River turtles. Authorities said they repackaged the box, which was labeled "PS Game Devices," and had Federal Express deliver it to the Williamstown home. Shortly afterward, authorities said, Phelps arrived to retrieve it.

They confronted Phelps immediately who then took them. to his apartment, where she saw other "rare wildlife." Agents returned this week to search his computer.

The 10 turtles, worth about \$700 apiece in the United States, are in fine shape, officials said.

### **SOURCE:**

Herpdigest.org news item by Allen Salzberg  
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