

《卖萤火虫年入百万 淘宝网全面禁售萤火虫》

中国电商淘宝和快递公司顺丰已经禁止了萤火虫的售卖和运输，此举无异于给中国动物权利点亮了一盏明灯。萤火虫是情人节情侣最喜欢送的礼物，也是城市儿童所喜欢的玩具。售卖萤火虫生意兴隆，大

虫的村民5毛钱一只，而他们一只只能卖到2-5元不等。

In a move that shines a bright light on the changing attitudes in China towards animal rights, e-commerce platform Taobao and courier service SF express have banned the sales and shipment of fireflies – a favorite gift among lovers on Valentine's Day and an in-demand request among urban children.

Taobao, the country's largest e-commerce with 695 million users shopping with a few clicks on their mobile phones, halted the sales and closed down all accounts selling the glowing bugs in May citing, but news came to light this week. 的虫头每年能获利60-100万。卖家给抓

The platform cited lack of regulations that ensure the ethical handling of these fireflies.



A villager is catching fireflies at night. /Xinhua Photo

"We will not regard live fireflies as farmed," read a statement released by Taobao in announcing its decision to end firefly sales.

"Industry regulations are too local and we are currently not able to set standards," it read.

Demand for fireflies has been on the rise in China – especially around romantic occasions. Forty-nine retailers were selling live fireflies on Taobao in 2016, according to a report by Xinhua News Agency – a 28.9 percent increase year on year.

The same year, more than six million fireflies were reportedly trafficked across the country with a fifth of them dying en route to customers.





A jar of fireflies waiting for to be sold. /Xinhua Photo

The sales of these bioluminescent beauties has led to a booming business, valued at between 600,000 and 1 million yuan, thriving at the expense of commercial and excessive catching of insects that are already facing a real threat of endangerment.

Sellers reportedly pay villagers as little as 0.5 yuan (7 cents) per insect, but sell them around two to five yuan (30 cents to 70 cents) online. Buyers typically purchase hundreds to be used in wedding ceremonies or attract traffic at theme parks.

