

DON'T LET IT LOOSE!



What is the Problem?

Invasive species are plants and animals that are not native to British Columbia and impact our ecosystems, wildlife, health and cost our economy millions of dollars a year. Some of our most serious invasive species came from aquariums and terrariums that were intentionally dumped in our waters and woods.

Pet and Aquarium Owners

When they are no longer wanted, some exotic 'pet' species are often abandoned to nearby woods and waters where they can become ecological and environmental disasters. It is critical that pet owners understand a pet's life cycle and their needs before buying or adopting it.

Releasing unwanted pets is not humane or ethical.

Releasing unwanted pets into the wild is not an ethical or humane option and is cruel, as most pets starve to death or are killed by predators or cars. The ones that do thrive and reproduce cause major problems to the environment.

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BC's "Pet" Invasives

BC is now home to several introduced invasive pet and plant species, including:

- Red Eared Slider Turtle
- Round Goby
- American Bullfrog
- Rusty Crayfish
- Parrot Feather
- Yellow Flag Iris
- European Cottontail Rabbit

For more information and solutions, visit:

www.bcinvases.ca

Don't Let it Loose BC!

Never release your plants and animals into the wild or dump aquariums or water garden debris into rivers, streams, lakes or storm sewers!

What Should I do Instead?

- Contact the place where you purchased the animal to see if they will take it back.
- Contact science centers, zoos or aquariums to see if they can use the animal for educational purposes.
- Dry and freeze unwanted aquatic plants and add them to non-composted trash.
- Report any sighting to your local invasive species committee (<http://bcinvases.ca/about/partners/>).
- If all else fails, consider humane euthanasia by a qualified veterinarian; it's far kinder than letting your pet starve to death in the wild or destroy homes of native animals and plants.



For more information or
to report invasive species:
www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species
1-888-933-3722 (ISCBC)

