



# DON'T LET IT LOOSE

## Why be Concerned?

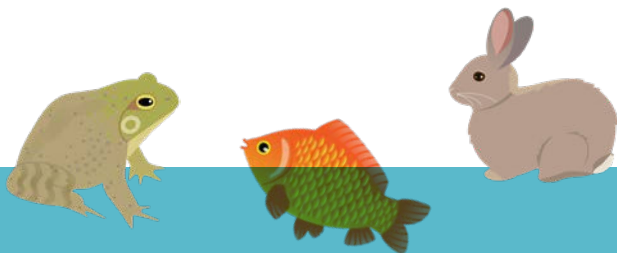
Invasive species are plants and animals that are not native to British Columbia and can have serious impacts on our environment, economy and human health. Some of BC's most harmful invasive species came from the intentional, improper disposal of aquariums and terrariums into our waters and other outdoor spaces.

## Pet and Aquarium Owners

When no longer wanted, some exotic 'pet' species are abandoned to nearby woods and waters where they can have huge ecological and environmental impacts. It is important for pet owners to understand a pet's life span and long-term care needs before adoption or purchase.

## Releasing unwanted pets is cruel, unethical and **ILLEGAL!**

Releasing a pet into an unsuitable habitat is considered animal cruelty and charges can be laid. In most cases, released pets will die of starvation or are killed by predators or cars. The ones that do thrive and reproduce can have devastating impacts to the environment!



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## BC's 'Pet' Invasives

BC is now home to the following introduced, invasive pet and plant species. Learn more at: [BCINVASIVES.CA](http://BCINVASIVES.CA)



**Goldfish**  
(*Carassius auratus*)



**Red-eared slider turtle**  
(*Trachemys scripta elegans*)



**American bullfrog**  
(*Lithobates catesbeianus*)



**Eurasian watermilfoil**  
(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)



**Parrot's feather**  
(*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)



**European rabbit**  
(*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)



**Brazilian elodea**  
(*Egeria densa*)



**Koi carp**  
(*Cyprinus rubrofuscus*)

**REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES:**  
[BCINVASIVES.CA/REPORT](http://BCINVASIVES.CA/REPORT)

## 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 retailer where you purchased the animal/fish to see if they will take it back.
- » Contact science centers, zoos or aquariums to see if they can use the animal/fish for educational purposes.
- » Dry and freeze unwanted plants and add them to non-composted trash.
- » Consider humane euthanasia by a veterinarian.



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