DON'T LET IT LOOSE!

Why be Concerned?

Invasive species are plants and animals that are not native to British Columbia and pose undesirable or detrimental impacts on people, animals or ecosystems—costing our economy millions of dollars a year. Some of BC's most serious invasive species came from the intentional, improper disposal of aquariums and terrariums into our waters and vast wilderness.

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 a significant ecological and environmental problem. 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 not humane or ethical.

Releasing unwanted pets into the wild is not an ethical or humane option. In most cases, pets will starve because they do not have skills to live in the wild, 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 the following introduced, invasive pet and plant species. Learn more at:
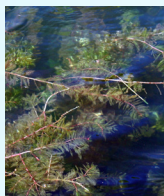**www.bcinvasives.ca**

Goldfish

Red Eared Slider Turtle

Brazilian Elodea

American Bullfrog

Eurasian Watermilfoil

Koi Carp

European Rabbit

Parrot Feather

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 aquatic plants and add them to non-composted trash.
- Consider humane euthanasia by a veterinarian.

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES TO:
www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.bcinvasives.ca | 1-888-933-3722

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Invasive Species Council of British Columbia

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BRITISH COLUMBIA