

World Animal Protection



We move the world to protect animals - from Canada to Costa Rica, from the UK to Denmark, from India to China.

Our offices

- 1 Australia
- 2 Brazil
- 3 Canada
- 4 Latin America
- 5 China
- 6 Denmark
- 7 India
- 8 Kenya
- 9 Netherlands
- 10 New Zealand
- 11 Sweden
- 12 Thailand
- 13 UK and International
- 14 USA



Who we are



We end the needless suffering of animals.

We influence decision makers to put animals on the global agenda.

We help the world see how important animals are to all of us.

We inspire people to change animals' lives for the better.

We move the world to protect animals.



Overview of exotic pet issues globally: Problems, trends and emerging issues

We were known as **WSPA**
(World Society for the
Protection of Animals)

History of exotic pet ownership



EXOTIC PET BOOM > The 20th-century is when exotic pets grew further in popularity, and millions of animals started being traded across the globe.



Recent estimates of the illegal global wildlife trade range from \$5-20 billion (USD). Live animal trade is worth \$15 billion industry in the U.S. alone (Farinato, 2004).

While the keeping of animals as pets is centuries old, global trade of wildlife is causing millions of animals around the world to suffer each year.

It is this industrial **commercialisation** on a global scale that causes immense and unnecessary suffering to wild animals, depleting wild populations, disrupting ecosystems and threatening human health and safety.

What's the problem?



Every day, thousands of wild animals are wild-caught, both legally and illegally, or “farmed” and sold into the global multi-billion-dollar exotic pet trade. Regardless of whether this trade is legal or illegal, these animals can often suffer terribly.

The journey can be quite cruel – and often deadly whether the animals are removed from the wild or bred in captivity. They may be shipped long distances in substandard conditions and mortality rates can be very high. "Post-capture and pre-export **mortality rates for AGPs have been estimated between 30-60% and as high as 70% - 90% in some instances**" (CITES, 2016)



Risks



Physical danger to humans

Animal Welfare Issues

Illegal wildlife trade masquerading as legal wildlife trade

MAIN ISSUES

Population depletion and extinction

Invasive species threat and introduction of novel diseases to native species

Human health implications e.g. zoonotic diseases

Agricultural implications via diseases

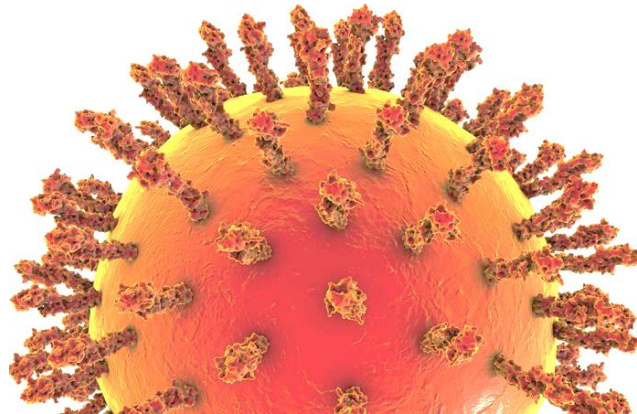
Examining current trends



Today, exotic pets are big business and are a main driver of the trade of live animals. There are over 500 species of reptiles and 500 species of birds traded live across the world, most presumably destined for people's homes or private menageries.

These numbers are staggering, as is the level of suffering wild animals kept as pets endure. Capture from the wild, handling, transport, holding, breeding and other facets of life in captivity routinely lead to chronic physical and psychological suffering.

Case Study: After the 2003 Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) outbreak the commercial import of wild caught birds was prohibited by the EU, due to the human health and welfare concerns involved.



YouTube 15% of exotic pet owners surveyed found inspiration via YouTube videos



Popular culture and social media plays a role in making owning exotic pets more acceptable



Otter - A Cute Otters And Funny Otters Videos Compilation || NEW HD ...
YouTube · mihaifrancu

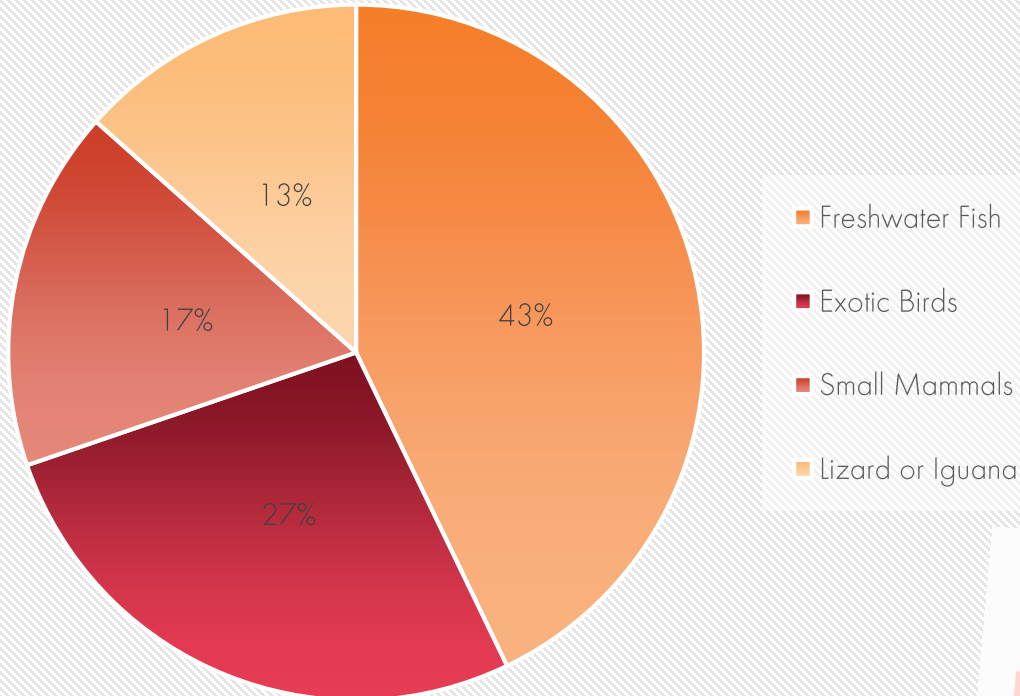


Overview of exotic pet issues globally

Exotic pet ownership in Canada



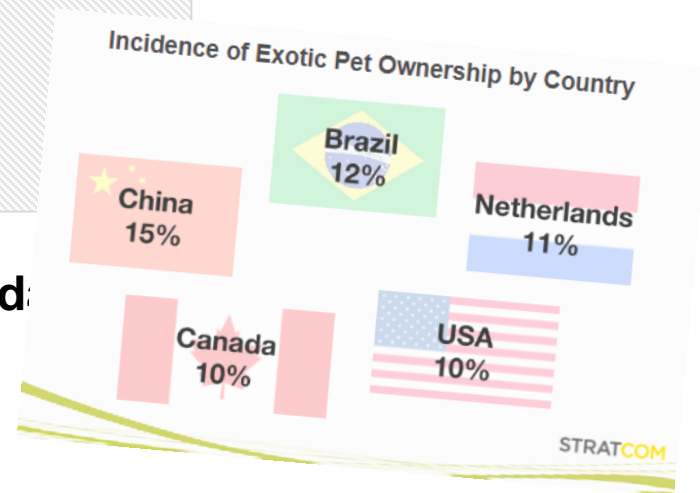
The 10% broken down



10% incidence of exotic pet ownership in Canada

➤ 54% of these also have a cat or dog

Overview of exotic pet issues globally



Understanding peoples' motivations

Research, Channels & Motivations: Canada



- Most common reason for owning an exotic pet is:
 - Friends & family (41%) followed by a local pet store (33%)
 - Wildlife park or zoo (16%), YouTube videos (12%) and mobile petting zoos or roadside attractions (10%)
- Almost 33% spent a few hours or less researching what pet to buy and how to care for it
 - 17% did no research at all
- Local pet stores, friends & family, and websites are typically most trusted sources of info
- 33% claim to be exotic pet owners for a love of animals
- 25% believe their animal is easy to care for
- 43% impulse purchases



Increasing global concern



American Zoo Association (AZA) - wild animals have complex behavioral, social, nutritional and psychological needs. Most people cannot meet the needs of wild animals kept as pets.”

Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) – exotic animals have complex behavioural, social, nutritional and psychological needs that require expert care to ensure their welfare as well as the health and safety of their keepers. Moreover, many non-indigenous species can, if inadvertently introduced to a foreign ecosystem, disrupt ecological balance and create long-term habitat damage.

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) - opposes keeping any native or exotic wild animal species, or their hybrids as pets. Doing so may compromise animal welfare, pose unnecessary risks to human and other companion animal health and safety, and may adversely impact the ecosystem.

Emergent Disease Foundation states that “ownership of exotic pets involves special risks to the health of animal keepers and to the health of those around them.”

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) - “some species are completely unsuitable for being kept by the general public and recommends the drafting of suitability lists.”

Humane Canada - opposes the trade and keeping of wild or exotic animals as pets. It supports all steps, including the passage of progressive legislation, which affords a greater degree of protection for wild animals and their habitats, and which reduces the infliction of pain and suffering upon them.

Governments are working to restrict the exotic pet trade



Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Malta have adopted Positive Lists.

A Positive List details which animal species are suitable to be kept as pets by anyone and is clear, easy to understand, less of an administrative burden and cost-effective.

- Evidence based approach
- Species can be added and removed
- It limits the species but enhances their care information
- Can be added as secondary legislation amendments to national Animal Welfare Acts
- All animals listed on CITES Appendix I & II are automatically added

Questions



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