

Protect Your Pet  
Preserve the  
Environment

DON'T  
RELEASE  
EXOTIC  
SPECIES!





# Protect Your Pets



Perhaps your pets are too plentiful.

Or, they just can't get along.

Or, maybe, your aquarium plants are taking over your tank.



*Whatever the issue...*

## **DON'T RELEASE Aquarium Plants or Pets into the Wild!**

Pets may not be able to survive outdoor temperatures.

Pets may starve or face predators and parasites.



Even worse, your pet could become an **INVASIVE SPECIES!**



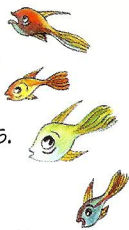
# Preserve the Environment

If released into the wild, many exotic plants and animals can become pests and a major problem to people and native species.

When this happens they are often called **invaders** or **invasive species**.

## *Invasive species can...*

Take over natural habitats and force out native species.



Deplete fisheries by eating juvenile fish and fish eggs.



Choke waters preventing swimming and boating.

Spread diseases that can harm humans and wildlife.



# Don't Release Exotic Species

## Instead of releasing your pet...

Donate your pet to a **PUBLIC PLACE:**  
a nature museum, aquarium, school,  
community center, or nursing  
home.

Give your pet to **PEOPLE:**  
your family, friends, neighbors, or  
other hobbyists.

Contact your **PET STORE** for  
advice:

some pet stores  
may actually allow  
you to return your  
pet.

**And don't forget to  
always...**

Put aquatic  
plants in the trash  
and pour aquarium  
water down the toilet.

