



YOU CAN HELP KEEP EXOTIC ANIMALS IN THE WILD

Exotic animals suffer when they're captured, kept, bred in captivity and sold as pets or entertainment. Removing them from the wild, and releasing them in B.C., damages sensitive ecosystems.

The BC SPCA's mission is to enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.

Have questions about how you can improve animal welfare in your community?

Contact us at:
1-855-622-7722
animalbylaws@spca.bc.ca



The BC SPCA respectfully acknowledges that we live, work and play on the unceded traditional territories of the numerous and diverse First Nations within British Columbia.

We express our gratitude to all Indigenous communities - First Nations, Métis and Inuit - for stewarding and sharing this land.

BCSPCA

SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

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? WHY IS THIS AN ISSUE?

Exotic animals are wild animals; they haven't been domesticated over thousands of years like cats or dogs. Even generations of captive breeding does not remove their wild instincts and needs. They suffer in captivity and most people don't have the resources or knowledge to fully meet their physical, behavioural and psychological needs.

Removing exotic animals from their natural habitat damages fragile ecosystems and can threaten the survival of wild populations. When they're released in B.C., they can harm our ecosystem and threaten native wildlife. Exotic animals can also transfer serious diseases to humans or other animals, and injure their owners. Learn more about the problem with exotic pets [here](#).

The B.C. *Wildlife Act* only regulates the most dangerous exotic animals as Controlled Alien Species, leaving local governments to deal with other exotic species such as serval cats, kangaroos, ball pythons, parrots and turtles.



WHAT CAN WE DO?

You can personally choose not to keep exotic pets or support businesses that display or sell them, and educate others about the [exotic pet trade](#). As a local government, you can adopt bylaws that prohibit keeping, breeding, selling and displaying exotic animals and their hybrids.



WHO ELSE HAS TAKEN ACTION?

City of Courtenay:
Bylaw No. [1897](#)

City of Fort St. John:
Bylaw No. [2527](#)

Ahousaht First Nation:
Bylaw No. [2019-01](#)

Find more BC SPCA-recommended progressive bylaws [here](#).