

Reference Number: DAERA/26-622

Request Details:

Escaped exotic and dangerous animals for the last 5 calendar years (2021–2025), and for 2026 to date.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Natural Environment Division



Department of

**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Wildlife & Invasives Branch
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Belfast
BT3 9ED

Telephone: 028 9056 9558

E-mail: elmswildlife@daera-ni.gov.uk

15 September 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 17 August 2026 which sought the following information for each of the last five calendar years (2021–2025), and for 2026 to date:

1. The number of incidents reported to or recorded by DAERA involving an escaped exotic, non-native or dangerous animal.
2. For each incident, where recorded, the species/type of animal involved and the council area in which the incident occurred.
3. The number of incidents where the animal was subsequently recovered or captured.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested which is outlined below:

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in people Standard

Year	No of incidents	Species	Council Area	Status
2021	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
2022	2	Francois Langur	Belfast City Council	captured
2023	1	Francois Langur	Belfast City Council	captured
2024	2	Colobus	Belfast City Council	captured
2025	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
2026	4	Bongo Spider Monkey Florida King Snake Blue morph juvenile red-tailed rat snake	Belfast City Council Belfast City Council Derry & Strabane DC Belfast City Council	captured captured Euthanised captured

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

