Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
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ESCAPE FROM CONFINEMENT: (ZOOS, PRIVATE COLLECTIONS AND TRADE) PATHWAY ACTION PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

An Agency within the Department of
Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Gníomhaireacht de chuid na Roinne
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

An Agency wi'in the Depairtment o
Fairmin, Environment an' Kintra Matthers

Contents

	Page Number
Background	3
Scope	4
Rationale	5
Aims and Objectives	8
Proposed Actions for Consideration/Comment	9
Actions 1 – 9	9 - 11
References	12
Annex 1: Proposed Working Group Membership (TBC)	13
Annex 2: Be Pet WISE Guidance for Pet Owners	14
Annex 3: Be Pet WISE Guidance for Pet Traders	16
Annex 4: Identification Guides	17
Annex 5: FAQs Document	19
Annex 6: Timetable for drafted actions and other tasks to be discussed with the Working Group	20

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An invasive alien species (IAS) is a plant, animal or other living organism introduced by man, which can have a negative ecological or economic impact in an area where it does not naturally occur.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) developed this Pathway Action Plan (PAP), in initial informal consultation with members of the PAP Working Group (see Annex 1 for list of proposed Working Group Members). NIEA is an agency of the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). NIEA, along with other divisions of DAERA and the Working Group, will monitor the implementation of the listed actions.

The Working Group membership will be confirmed within 6 months of the final publication of this PAP.

Background

Reducing the risk posed by pathways of introduction and spread is a key method for tackling IAS. The aim is to identify the pathways that require priority action ('priority pathways') because of the volume of species or of the potential damage caused by the species entering Northern Ireland (NI) through those pathways.

Within three years of the adoption of the Union list, each Member State shall establish and implement one single action plan or a set of action plans to address the priority pathways it has identified.

This PAP has been developed because:

1. Under Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014[1], Member States shall, within 18 months of the adoption of the Union list, carry out a comprehensive analysis of the pathways of unintentional introduction and spread of IAS of Union concern at least in their territory, as well as in their marine waters. Although NI is not a Member State, Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 applies in NI under Annex 2 of the Windsor Framework.

2. Prevention of invasive species arriving in NI is an action within the Environmental Improvement Plan[2].

3. The Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland[3] calls for the development of PAPs.

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This PAP is one of a series of plans intended to address pathways of introduction and spread of IAS in NI. Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 defines pathways as 'the routes and mechanisms of the introduction and spread of IAS'[1]. Pathways can apply to the geographic route by which a species moves outside its natural range, the corridor of introduction for example a road, canal or the human activity, that leads to its accidental or deliberate introduction.

Many IAS are introduced unintentionally[4]. The most effective way to manage these unintentional introductions is through the management of the introduction pathway itself rather than measures targeted at individual species. This plan outlines the general policy and approaches as well as deliverables by government and other actors in relation to management.

Scope

The only Species of Union Concern that can still be 'kept' are those classified as 'companion animals'. These are animals that were already owned prior to listing. They are allowed to stay in their current homes until the end of their natural lives. However, they are not allowed to be bred, sold, exchanged, given away or allowed to escape.

Species of Union Concern can no longer be sold, however, to allow for stock clearance, those species newly listed can still be traded for 12 months after listing.

This PAP is aimed at the escape from confinement of IAS animals housed in zoos and those associated with the exotic pet industry (importers, breeders, wholesalers) and companion animal owners (including, veterinary surgeries, rescue centres and sanctuaries). This PAP also covers the invasive non-native live food used for such species. Some IAS may also be kept under license/permit by research facilities in order to investigate improved methods of eradication.

For the purposes of this PAP, the word 'escape' will cover both 'true' escapes (accidental) and the 'facilitated' escapes (deliberate release) of unwanted individuals.

The term 'zoo' is used generally and covers establishments such as wildlife parks, aquaria, falconry centres, reptile houses, butterfly collections, research facilities and farm parks keeping IAS. There are only three full BIAZA member Zoos in NI.

The scope of this PAP also covers pet animals, specifically exotics. Pets are defined as "any animal kept or intended to be kept by man in particular in his household for private enjoyment and companionship[5]". This covers 'animals sharing man's companionship and in particular, living in his household; animals intended for this purpose[6]'. The term 'exotic pet' covers 'those animals not traditionally kept as pets in the UK and whose welfare needs are so specialised they can rarely be met in a domestic environment[7]'. The geographical scope of this PAP is NI but will also refer, where relevant, to the island of Ireland from a biogeographical perspective and further afield (particularly Continental Europe).

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Rationale

Animals kept in confinement represent a source of new species that have the potential to become invasive here in NI, through their true or facilitated escapes from captivity. In this case, animals kept in confinement refers to those animals housed in zoos, those associated with the exotic pet industry, owners and keepers, as well as the non-native live food required for some of these animals. Escapes can be the result of animals kept in facilities that are not sufficiently secure, or they can be the result of the active release by irresponsible owners/keepers. The import of these species and the non-native live food required to sustain many of them, represents another potential source of invasive species. This can occur where imported consignments can come with associated IAS in the form of stowaways/hitchhikers, misidentified species (sometimes deliberately mislabelled), parasites, contaminants, and pathogens.

The scale of the pet industry is growing. In a 2022 survey, it was estimated that 62% of UK households have a pet[8]. The demand for exotic pets is also growing, leading to increased imports of live wild animals into the UK. Between 2014 and 2018 around 2 .4 million amphibians, ~0 .5 million reptiles, ~0 .1 million birds and ~0 .2 million mammals were imported into GB for commercial purposes, including for use in the pet industry[9]. Many of these will have been imported from GB to pet suppliers in NI.

The increased availability of exotic or non-native pets in NI has led to more people becoming responsible for exotic animals. To be kept in captivity as pets, many of these exotic species have specialised requirements and these can sometimes go beyond the scope of the keeper. They are not always easy to care for and they may not live up to the owners' expectations[10]. Owners who grow tired of the responsibility, or simply no longer have the resources to care for the animal in question, may want to dispose of the animal, resulting in the facilitated escape of these individuals into the environment.

Most zoos have a good record of preventing escapes and recapturing any escaped animals, but incidents can still occur. Animals allowed to move freely in and out of captivity within a zoo also present a particular risk as they have an increased potential to establish populations in the local environment and become invasive.

It is important to highlight that not all animals that escape confinement will be able to survive in the NI environment. Many exotic species have specific environmental requirements, which could not be met in 'the wild' in NI. However, species that are generalist and opportunistic are more likely to survive and, when more than one individual of the same species has escaped into the same area, there is a greater chance of breeding and therefore establishment and spread.

Once established, invasive species can have major impacts on our native biodiversity; outcompeting, repressing, and excluding native wildlife, altering ecosystems and food webs, and introducing parasites and pathogens; even a single individual invasive species can negatively impact our local ecosystems in similar ways.

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The control and eradication of invasive species can be extremely difficult and incredibly costly. The estimated annual cost of invasive species to the NI economy in 2021 was £150 million[11].

Alongside the economic and ecological impacts, invasive species can also directly affect human health, as infected animals that escape from confinement can act as vectors for disease, some of which have the potential to impact humans (e.g., zoonotic diseases or turtles which are known to carry salmonella). This is why PAPs, such as this, are required; prevention is better than reaction.

Both the number of individuals that escape, and the frequency of escape events are important drivers in determining the likelihood of a species becoming established and, as a result, potentially becoming invasive. Zoos, importers, breeders and wholesalers tend to house large stocks of multiple species. An escape from here has the potential to lead to a large number of individuals entering the environment at any one time. The frequency of such escapes, however, tends to be small. This is different for pet owners, who care for a small number of individuals.

An escape that occurs here may mean the input of only a small number of individuals into the environment but in densely populated areas like towns or cities, the frequency of pet owners, and therefore escapes, can be high.

While zoos, the pet industry and pet owners/keepers are generally responsible and well informed, the fact that exotic species are still being found in the environment, is a telling sign that more education and awareness raising is required. One of the aims of this PAP is to raise awareness amongst the relevant stakeholders so that they understand both the legal ramifications of deliberate release, as well as the environmental welfare and economic consequences.

Although zoos already have a statutory role in both education and conservation, with some already helping to raise awareness of the importance of the issue of invasive species amongst their visitors, our aim, through this PAP, is for that role to expand.

There are European Codes of Conduct developed under the Bern Convention for both Zoological Gardens and Aquaria and IAS[12], and for Pets and IAS[13].

The subject of IAS also features in several relevant acts in domestic legislation.

Other relevant NI Acts/Orders/Policy Instruments:

- The Welfare of Animals (NI) Act 2011[14]
- The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order (1985) (as amended)[15]
- Wildlife and Natural Environment (WANE) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011[16]
- Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland[2]
- The Zoos Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003[17]

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The recommendations outlined in this plan support the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014)[1] which, along with Species of Union Concern, provides a general prohibition on the release of any non-native species of animal or plant into the NI environment. Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 applies in NI under Annex 2 of the Windsor Framework. It is enforced via the corresponding Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019[18].

However, legislation alone is not sufficient to manage and lower the risk associated with introducing or spreading IAS. It requires cooperation and collaboration from all concerned, and each sector is part of the solution and plays an important role in IAS management and implementing the appropriate levels of biosecurity protocols. This plan sets out additional actions to help minimise the risk of introduction and movement of IAS caused by zoos, the pet industry, and pet keepers/owners. Its primary output is to agree a series of measures to raise awareness among key actors in this sector and to strengthen existing biosecurity mechanisms. These actions are outlined below, and they form the main body of the action plan.

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Aims and Objectives

- Raise awareness of IAS amongst zoos, the pet industry, veterinary surgeons and pet owners/ keepers. Focusing on introductions as a result of escape from confinement and the damage this can cause to our native biodiversity.
- Raise awareness of the importance of the issue of escapes amongst zoo inspectors, DAERA veterinary division, local authorities and PSNI to ensure this issue is addressed robustly.
- Raise awareness of biosecurity at our borders, the issues regarding the import of illegal listed species, mislabelled/misidentified species and the presence of hitchhikers, parasites, diseases etc. within consignments for example, wood or plant products.
- Currently, importers of some live animals must pre-notify movements of live animals into NI using the EU's TRACES NT system - we should work to widen the knowledge collected by this system i.e. ensure species are accurately identified on the system.
- Make greater use of zoos, veterinary surgeries and the pet industry, to help raise public awareness of the invasive species issue amongst their visitors and customers.
- Ensure that zoo animals which are allowed to move freely in and out of captivity within the zoo (for example prairie dogs) are not allowed to remain there habitually. They should not be allowed to remain unconfined on a permanent basis.
- Ensure rapid response contingency plans are in place in all facilities to recover all escapes - not just those that pose a danger to the public; Endeavour to introduce a legal obligation for zoos to report all non-native species escapes.
- Ensure the recording of information on escapes by zoos and investigate possible ways to collate this information centrally.
- Improve capacity for responding to the initial stages of establishment from escapes in conjunction with the setting up of a rapid response working group.

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Proposed Actions for Consideration/Comment

Action 1: Creation of guidance and a Code of Conduct

Create guidance and a Code of Conduct for both zoos and the exotic non-native pet industry in relation to IAS. This guidance will be circulated to all relevant stakeholders, including pet shops stocking exotic animals, zoos, major importers, veterinary surgeons, breeders, and wholesalers and to DAERA zoo inspectors and DAERA veterinary division prior to every inspection. The guidance will:

- Explicitly address the issue of the types of exhibits which may contravene Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014, where animals have uncontrolled access outside the zoo, (e.g. free-flying birds, prairie dogs etc.).
- Ensure that it is explicit that the requirements relating to escapes in The Zoos Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 apply to all non-native animals, not just those that pose a risk to public safety.
- State that no non-native animal should be allowed to escape into the environment and inform all stakeholders of laws surrounding IAS.

Action 2: Creation of a reporting line for escapes from confinement

All escapes from confinement must be recorded by the relevant stakeholders. DAERA should create a reporting line, whereby each record is submitted by the relevant stakeholders to DAERA to be collated centrally.

Action 3: DAERA and PSNI potential intelligence sharing

DAERA officials will liaise with the PSNI and via PAW NI to agree on how best to gather and share intelligence on contraventions of Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014. This will include the National Wildlife Crime Unit INNS Practitioners Group for shared issues across jurisdictions. Create a formal method of reporting incidents to zoo inspectors and veterinary division colleagues and produce a range of options for dealing with such issues.

Action 4: Zoo inspectors reporting incidents to DAERA

Zoo inspectors must report all incidences of exhibits with animals that have uncontrolled access outside the zoo back to DAERA.

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Action 5: DAERA/NIEA working with zoos to raise awareness

DAERA/NIEA INNS team will work with zoos and other relevant stakeholders to raise awareness of the issue of invasive species amongst their visitors.

This could involve:

- A campaign, run in partnership with zoos and relevant stakeholders, aimed at both awareness raising and encouraging visitors to record all IAS sightings on CEDaR, iRecord or iNaturalist..
- In zoos, where an IAS is a primary attraction, its status as an IAS should be highlighted and, if the species is banned, the fact that measures have been taken to ensure that it is no longer permitted to be bred in captivity.
- Where a species is under threat by an IAS in its native range, this too should be highlighted.

Action 6: Promotion of Be Pet WISE campaign

DAERA/NIEA INNS team will work alongside the exotic pet industry, and exotic pet owners and keepers, to raise awareness of the issue of IAS and promote Be Pet WISE (See Annex 2 and 3). This could involve:

- A campaign run in partnership with the pet industry to raise awareness of the issue of escapes associated with the pet trade and how they relate to the IAS issue. This campaign should also promote the reporting of IAS found in the environment by the industry and pet owners.
- Pet shops stocking exotic pets should promote which species are non-native and above all, insist that no pet should be released into the wild. This could be achieved through appropriate labelling and signage. Some owners may believe that 'freedom' is a 'kinder' option. However, "Life in the wild is hazardous, needs are not always met, and in the context of the survival of the fittest, the less fit frequently face food shortage, injury, disease and lingering deaths"[19]. The pet industry must be encouraged to share this message.
- All stakeholders must know what they are selling and ensure that their customers understand what they are receiving. They must provide care-sheets for each species that they stock, allowing the customer to make a fully informed decision. They must also be able to determine the suitability of the pet for them and ensure that they are able to adequately house and secure it. This should also help to reduce impulse purchases.

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- A care-sheet should include the estimated time and money involved to care for the pet, behavioural characteristics and any hazards e.g. biting, lifespan, size when fully grown, if it is capable of reproducing (if purchasing more than one) and methods for safe and secure keeping.
- Containers of live food should be labelled and/or come with guidance, explaining how care must be taken to avoid the escape of the food species into the environment.
- Traders should be made aware that potential hitchhikers, parasites and pathogens may be present with imports and know who to contact if they suspect an occurrence.
- Customers can play a key role in ensuring traders are following the rules and regulations, acting as the eyes and ears, reporting anything untoward to the NIEA INNS team.
- Raise awareness of methods to prevent the escape of pets. Problems with non-native species generally start to arrive when they move out of controlled or physically restricted locations.
- Liaise with veterinary surgeons to raise awareness with their customers and report clients who present at surgeries with banned species.

Action 7: Align aims of PAP with remit of the Rapid Response Working Group

NIEA INNS team will ensure that the Rapid Response Working Group includes the aims of this PAP within its remit including by assessing what knowledge, expertise and resources exist to deal with establishing populations of escaped zoo and exotic pet animals.

Action 8: Investigate illegal online trading of listed IAS

Look into the internet commerce and trade of listed IAS and issues linked with misidentification and mislabelling of species. Encourage the reporting of any suspected selling of listed IAS to NIEA INNS team and raise awareness of this within the exotic pet owner community and industry (See Annex 4 for listed IAS commonly associated with the pet industry and zoos).

Action 9: Raise awareness of need for border biosecurity

Raise awareness of the issue of biosecurity at our borders with border control staff; the illegal import of listed species, the mislabelling/misidentification of species and consignments contaminated with hitchhikers that may be invasive (this includes parasites and pathogens).

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15 The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order (1985) (as amended). https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1985/171/contents

16 Wildlife and Natural Environment (WANE) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2011/15/contents

17 The Zoos Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2003/115/contents

18 The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2019/159/made

19 Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC). 2003. Report on the welfare of non- domesticated animals kept for companionship. The Companion Animal Welfare Council. Chair Lord Soulsby, June 2003.

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Annex 1: Proposed Working Group Membership (TBC)

If they agree, the following membership will take part in further discussions regarding updating, improving and monitoring of this PAP. If you know of any other potential members to nominate, please contact the NIEA INNS team – **invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk**:

OATA (local representative)
Local Council Animal Welfare Officers
PAW NI
Belfast Zoo (Belfast City Council)
Exploris Aquarium
Castle Espie (Wildlife & Wetlands Trust)
Mountpanther Estate
The British Deer Society (NI division)
The Northern Ireland Deer Society
USPCA
NIEA Wildlife Team
The Association of Veterinary Surgeons Practising in Northern Ireland
Representative from QUB School of Biological Sciences
HMRC - Border Force UK
Trading Standards
British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
British Veterinary Association - Northern Ireland regional representative
DAERA Veterinary Division

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Annex 2: Be Pet WISE Guidance for Pet Owners

When getting a pet, it is important to carefully consider the reality of caring for your pet now and in future years. If in doubt, do not proceed as this will help reduce the number of pets which escape or are released into our native environment by owners no longer able to cope. If escaped/released animals can survive and establish themselves in our native environment, they can have many negative impacts on the surrounding ecosystem such as competing with native species, preying on them, destroying habitats, altering food webs and spreading diseases. They can also negatively impact our economy and society in general.

Some Considerations

Is it legal?

Some animals are illegal to own in Northern Ireland (NI). In general, if an animal is illegal, it has been made illegal as a result of the potential threats it poses to human health or the environment.

Under Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 strict restrictions apply to any species on the Species of Union Concern List. Listed pet species can be kept for the remainder of their natural lives without a permit, provided they were owned prior to listing. For more information see Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 FAQs document (see Annex 5).

Does it require a licence?

Some animals require a licence to keep legally in NI. Always check with your retailer on the licence requirements before you purchase an animal.

What size will it grow to?

Do you have enough space to accommodate your pet once it reaches its potential full size?

What age will it live to?

How long will you have to commit to this pet and how does this fit with your long-term life plans?

Can you adopt practices to prevent your pet, any diseases/parasites or its food/habitat requirements from becoming invasive?

When considering getting a new pet, you should also consider the potential for your pet and/or its diseases/parasites to become invasive. You should also consider if its food or habitat requirements could lead to the introduction of a new invasive species.

How much time will it take to care for?

Do you have the time to devote to your pet to ensure that it has the best possible quality of life? Some pets will be more active than others and will require much more of your time for social and exercise time. Specialist dietary and husbandry requirements may take a considerable amount of time.

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How social is the animal?

Do you want a pet that is happy to be handled or one that is contented without regular handling? Is the animal best kept in groups or alone? Is the animal compatible with other pets and/or children?

How much will it cost to look after?

Does the animal require specialist food/housing/veterinary care that will be expensive? Even if no specialist care is required the costs of owning pets are often far greater than the cost of acquiring the pet in the first place. Also consider if your local veterinary surgery is equipped to deal with your chosen pet.

Will it reproduce in captivity?

If your chosen pet is to be kept in groups, will they reproduce readily? Will they produce large numbers of young? Do you have a responsible means of re-homing ALL offspring? For pet species listed on the Species of Union Concern List, measures must be in place to prevent breeding. In NI listed animal species cannot be rehomed. (For more information see FAQ's document (Annex 5)).

Health concerns?

Some animals may carry diseases or pathogens which may be transmitted to humans, other pets, agricultural animals and native species. It is important to consider and research this issue before deciding upon an exotic pet.

Caring for your pet

Even if you have thoroughly researched your chosen pet, there may be issues which you had not previously considered. Liaise with relevant bodies on how to best continue care for your pet and avoid situations where there is a risk of your pet being introduced to our native environment.

If your circumstances change and you find you are unable to continue caring for your pet, ensure that you re-home your pet humanely and responsibly. As mentioned above, Species of Union Concern cannot be rehomed in NI. For more information regarding the Species of Union Concern List see the FAQs document (Annex 5).

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Annex 3: Be Pet WISE Guidance for Pet Traders

The import of animals across international frontiers and within countries, between animal farmers, collectors, wholesalers, and retailers is essential for the pet industry.

If, however, these species are allowed to escape, together with any pathogens or parasites they may be carrying, into our native environment, they have the potential to become invasive, negatively impacting our native ecosystems and our economy. The non-native live food, often associated with these species, also represents a potential source of invasive species, if mismanaged and given opportunity to escape. This is less of a problem with ornamental fish species, which are kept in closed systems with little chance of escape. Imported consignments can also come with associated invasives in the form of stowaways/ hitchhikers, misidentified species (sometimes deliberately mislabelled), parasites, contaminants, and/or pathogens.

Under Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 strict restrictions apply to any species on the Species of Union Concern List. Once listed, Species of Union Concern can no longer be sold, however, to allow stock clearance, those species newly listed can still be traded for 12 months after listing. For more information see Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 FAQ's document (Annex 5).

Pet traders have a key role to play in preventing the spread of invasive species, diseases and parasites. Below is some guidance which can be implemented by pet traders to help prevent the introduction of invasive species:

Check: Ensure that consignments do not contain hitchhikers which may be invasive. This includes parasites and pathogens.

Ensure Good Husbandry: Reduce animal stress and minimise susceptibility of the animals to pathogens and parasites.

Biosecurity: Ensure that animals, pathogens or parasites cannot escape from your facility or during transport. Ensure that all consignments are clearly labelled.

Care Sheets: Ensure that all customers, whether they be potential or current, are provided with relevant care sheets pertaining to their pet and any associated live food. This will allow them to determine the suitability of the pet and ensure the pet is kept healthy and adequately/securely housed.

Codes of Practice: Ensure that customers know how to best care for their pet in order to minimise the risks of exotic animals being abandoned or escaping.

Education: Educate customers about the implications for the environment, the economy and human/ animal/plant health of the release of exotic animals. Educate customers on alternatives to abandoning pets should a situation arise where this is necessary.

Industry Education: Promote awareness of the risk of invasive species within the pet trade and veterinary care.

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Annex 4: Identification Guides

Below are links to ID Guides for some listed IAS that can be associated with zoos or the pet industry. For more information on these species and others, please see the Species Account section on our website.



[Coypu]



[Coatimundi]



[Fox squirrel]



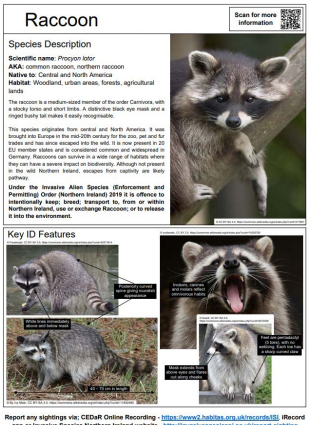
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[Muskrat]



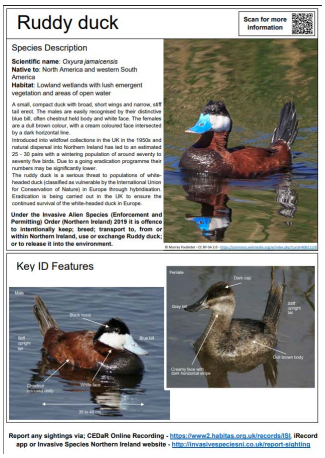
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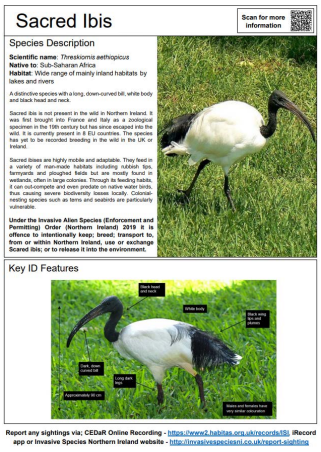
[Raccoon]



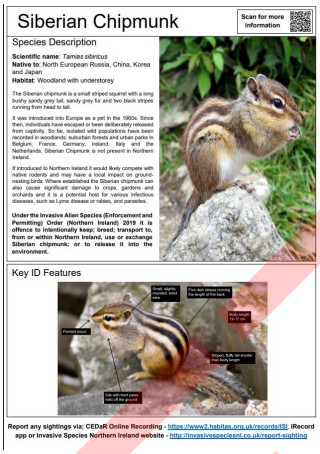
[Raccoon dog]



[Ruddy Duck]



[Sacred ibis]



[Siberian chipmunk]



[Terrapins]

Resources available for distribution to trade, owners and veterinary surgeons can be downloaded from our website: https://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/what-can-i-do/pets/be-pet-wise-resources/





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Annex 5: FAQs Document

The NIEA FAQs document for the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 provides answers to common questions surrounding the issue of listed IAS in relation to zoos, pet owners and the pet industry.



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Annex 6: Timetable for drafted actions and other tasks to be discussed with the Working Group

Task	Deadline	Responsible
Consultation	July – August 2026	DAERA
Publication of PAP	December 2026	DAERA
Confirmation of working group membership	Within 6 months of final publication of PAP	DAERA/ NIEA
Action 1	December 2027	DAERA/NIEA and relevant members of the Working Group
Action 2	December 2027	DAERA and relevant members of the Working Group
Action 3	December 2027	DAERA and PSNI
Action 4	December 2027	DAERA and relevant members of the Working Group
Action 5	December 2027	DAERA/NIEA and other relevant members of the Working Group
Action 6	December 2027	DAERA and relevant members of the Working Group
Action 7	May 2027	NIEA
Action 8	November 2027	DAERA/ NIEA
Action 9	November 2027	DAERA/ NIEA
Monitoring the progress and effectiveness of actions	Working group will be convened annually The PAP will be reviewed and reported to the Commission every 6 years	Working group DAERA

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