Regulating the exotic pet trade with a Positive List

Petition No 0697/2020

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What is a Positive List

A ‘white list’ of animal species permitted to be traded and kept as pets in the EU

Added to the list after comprehensive risk assessment
- animal welfare
- biodiversity
- public health and safety risks.

All animal species not included on the list are automatically prohibited

Precautionary

Easier enforcement

In line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy

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Current EU Legislation is insufficient to properly regulate the (exotic) pet trade.
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- Does not cover many of the exotic pet species
- Diseases linked to farm animal
- Exotic pets - no record-keeping
- Challenging for prevention, early detection and rapid response to exotic pet-linked zoonoses
- Lack of ‘sufficiently trained’ veterinarians


on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (‘Animal Health Law’)
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REGULATION (EU) No 576/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 12 June 2013
on the non-commercial movement of pet animals and repealing Regulation (EC) No 998/2003

- Only deals with non-commercial movements of pet animals
- Rabies vaccinations mandatory for only dogs, cats and ferrets
- More than just diseases
  - Exotic pets can also inflict serious, sometimes even fatal, injuries to humans

EU Animal Welfare Legislation

- No EU legislation exists for animal welfare requirements of pets that are kept and traded within the EU internal market,
- Unsuitable pets to suffer in silence
● **Covers a fraction** of the potentially invasive alien species present in the EU

● **Escape** or release of pets

● Union List is **reactive** rather than precautionary

● **Non-native invasions** are projected to **increase** dramatically
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COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 338/97
of 9 December 1996

on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein

- BD is declining globally at unprecedented rates
- Exploitation of animals = key driver
- **Overwhelming majority of exotic animals traded as pets within the EU are not covered by these regulations**
- Many critically endangered species are not included in the CITES Regulation
- Well known enforcement limitations
Main Points

- Current EU Legislation is insufficient
- Positive List implemented in some MS
- Precautionary approach

An EU Positive List is the best tool to regulate the EU Pet trade
We ask the PETI Committee

To urge the Commission to start the development process of an EU Positive List, as an additional and complementary tool that would fill the gaps left by the current regulatory framework.
THANK YOU

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