



Non-native Species

Non-native species are plants and animals that don't normally live in the places that they are found. These invasives can cause many problems for the plants and animals that do live in these areas. These plants and animals can come from different places. They could be brought in accidentally, such as live bait being let loose after a fishing trip. Other times they are pets that have escaped or been let loose.



What to Do With Unwanted Pets

There are many options and contacts for getting rid of an unwanted pet:

- Return it to where it was purchased.
 - Give it to someone else.
- Contact your local humane society for potential adopters and other options.
- Contact a local animal rescue facility for options.
- Contact your local zoo to discuss potential options.

For More Information:

habitattitude.net

invasivespecies.nbio.gov

nps.gov

Colorado Division of Wildlife

larimerhumane.org

audubon.org

Don't Let Your Pets Loose

Information on the problems of released pets and what you can do to stop them



Photo courtesy floridainvaders.org

Don't Let Your Pets Out Into the Wild!

There are many animals that make wonderful pets. These animals need to be kept in a home and taken care of. See how many different kinds of pets you can find in this word search:

A	F	Y	K	S	T	A	R	D	E
M	I	C	E	M	B	R	I	P	O
P	S	M	K	R	D	I	H	B	L
H	H	O	T	F	K	H	R	U	E
B	B	H	M	D	G	R	E	D	I
I	H	G	B	C	M	H	G	B	S
A	L	I	Z	A	R	D	S	C	N
N	M	J	I	T	L	O	P	G	C
S	G	R	S	S	N	A	K	E	S
B	V	G	W	R	L	L	J	P	T
N	O	R	E	D	C	V	H	I	P
D	P	O	S	T	I	B	B	A	R



BIRDS

FISH

SNAKES

LIZARDS

AMPHIBIANS

MICE

RABBITS

DOGS

CATS

RATS.

What Happens if You Let Your Pets Go?

Many times if a pet is let loose it will not be able to survive in the wild. Other times, though, a pet may be able to survive. When this happens it is known as a non-native animal. Non-natives can cause harm to the environment and native animals. They eat the food that the wild animals need to survive. They may even harm or eat wild animals.



This bird is being eaten by a bullfrog that is non-native to the area.



National Park Service Photo

Florida is having problems with Burmese Pythons that have been released into the wild by their owners. These snakes causing harm to the local wildlife, including animals that are endangered.

Another common issue is the release of live bait into the waters after fishing trips. The bait can cause problems in the local ecosystems.

What is being done in some places:



National Park Service Photo

This is Python Pete. Using his sense of smell, he has been trained to find pythons to help his handlers remove them from the Everglades National Park.



In Guam, Brown Tree Snakes are an invasive species that are causing some problems.

These are all examples of pets that shouldn't be let loose.