



Exotic Pets in Canada

Issues, challenges &
realities







- Zoos/ aquariums
- Private menageries
- Native wildlife displays
- Sanctuaries
- Alternative livestock
- Mobile Live Animal Programs (MLAPs)
- Pets (mass market & specialty)
- Research



Wild animal/ exotic pet trends – the good

- ◆ Public interest and concern about some exotics ↑
 - ◆ Law and policy-maker interest ↑
 - ◆ Public acceptance ↓
 - ◆ Zoos ↓
 - ◆ Roadside zoos ↓
 - ◆ Circus wild animal acts/ novelty acts ↓
 - ◆ Larger zoo-type species kept as pets ↓
 - ◆ Laws/ regulations ↑
 - ◆ Greater restrictions on keeping of native wildlife ↑
 - ◆ Increased use of Positive List regulation ↑
- 

Wild animal/ exotic pet trends – the bad

- ◆ Mobile Live Animal Programs (MLAPs) ↑
 - ◆ Exotic animal/reptile shows ↑
 - ◆ Reptile zoos ↑
 - ◆ Some small exotic pet species ↑
 - ◆ Municipal law focus still on mammals
 - ◆ Municipal law focus still on prohibited (negative) lists
 - ◆ Little attention paid to most small exotics in law, policy and enforcement
 - ◆ No meaningful emphasis on human health issues
 - ◆ Continued organized opposition to new laws
- 


The Reality – large number of species

- ◆ Mammals (5,516)
 - ◆ Birds (10,426)
 - ◆ Reptiles (10,720+) (10,272 in 2015)
 - ◆ Amphibians (6,199)
 - ◆ Fish (31,500)
 - ◆ Other (?)
- 
- A decorative graphic at the bottom right of the slide, consisting of a teal-colored silhouette of a mountain range with various peaks and valleys.


The reality – large number of people who want to exploit them



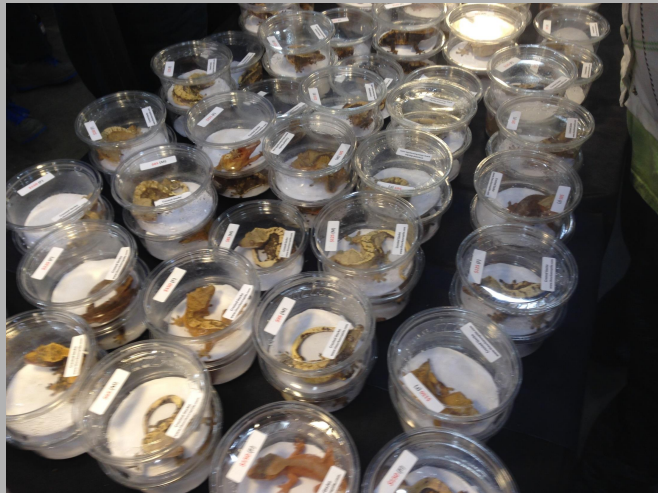
Key issues

- ◆ Animal welfare (capture, transport, holding, sale, destination point, end point)
 - ◆ Trade/conservation issues, including species reduction and disruption of ecosystems
 - ◆ Potential introduction of foreign diseases to native wildlife populations and/or establishment as invasive species
 - ◆ Human health and safety
 - ◆ Nuisance issues
 - ◆ Cost issues (local, regional, national)
 - ◆ Public optics
- 
- A decorative graphic at the bottom right of the slide, consisting of a series of overlapping, jagged teal shapes that resemble a mountain range or a stylized landscape.

Key challenges and realities

- ◆ Problematic laws (e.g., inconsistent, non-comprehensive, vague, out-dated)
 - ◆ Outdated regulatory schemes
 - ◆ Large numbers of species overlooked or ignored
 - ◆ Lack of sufficient in-house expertise in government/ official agencies
 - ◆ Excessive reliance on pet industry input/advice (token input from other sources)
 - ◆ Lack of capacity in enforcement agencies
 - ◆ Lack of relevant principles, policies and procedures
 - ◆ Lack of coordination between relevant agencies (e.g., animal services, planning, public health, emergency services, external organizations)
- 
- A decorative graphic at the bottom right of the slide, consisting of a stylized mountain range in shades of teal and light blue, extending from the bottom edge towards the right side.

Low hanging fruit?



MOBILE LIVE ANIMAL PROGRAMS (MLAPs)



REPTILE SHOWS

Leopard Gecko
www.theurbanreptile.com

Tangerine (M)
\$55



Leopard Gecko
www.theurbanreptile.com



PASTEL HET OC

\$200

NOR



