

— Exotic Animal Ownership in Ireland

Societal Perception, Health & Welfare, Trade and Legislation

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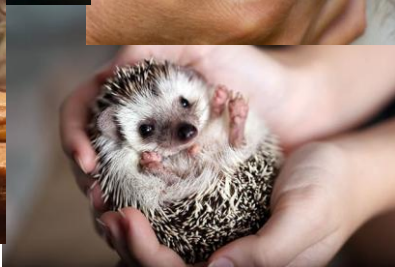
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“These pets include parrots, reptiles, amphibians and rabbits, as well as small species of rodent such as degus and guinea pigs.” *Grant et al. 2017*



Irish Regulations

- Joined the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in 2002.
- Wildlife Act, 1976 (several amendments) and Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013
- Currently all bird species, 23 other animal species or groups of species and 157 species of flora are afforded protected status under the Act. Hunting and falconry are controlled under the Act.
- Currently, there is no regulation on exotic animal ownership BUT:
- EU Regulation (1143/2014) – Species of Union Concern.
- Dangerous Wild Animal Order 2004 in Northern Ireland.



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Ireland³: “Lots!”

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(3) Goins, M., Hanlon, A.J. Exotic pets in Ireland: 1. Prevalence of ownership and access to veterinary services. *Ir Vet J* **74**, 14 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13620-021-00190-6>

“Whoopsies”

Anti-venom to be imported from UK for man bitten by snake

Chicken-killing suspect raccoon captured and destroyed

Beautiful but deadly alpine newt discovered in three Irish counties

They're the squawk of the town, but colourful feral parakeets are making a pest of themselves



Pond slider

Trachemys scripta

👁 First Sighting 2003

🌿 Freshwater



Siberian chipmunk

Tamias sibiricus (Laxmann, 1769)

👁 First sighting 2010

🌿 Terrestrial



Project outline



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This represents a potential risk to the environment (e.g., potential for invasiveness), to the public (e.g., dangerous animals, zoonosis), and to the health of the animals themselves (e.g., veterinary care and welfare).



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Axis 4: Review sanctuary and animal shelter entries for surrendered exotic animals. Assess the risk of zoonosis and bio invasion by exotic animal species present/imported in Ireland.



Interested in the project? Support us!



Come and say hello! Your ideas and suggestions may improve our project.



Inform your network and share your reports / data with us. We rely on willingness of the public to engage with the project.



This is a self-funded project. Let us know if you have funds available for targeted studies / reports. We may be able to include them in our investigation.

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