

DO NOT SUPPORT PET SHOPS THAT SELL ANIMALS. ANIMALS ARE NOT PRODUCTS.

FACTS ON THE PET TRADE

- Animals are viewed as commodities – profit is king. The animals are bred, housed, transported, bought and sold in the cheapest possible way.
- Animals are often denied veterinary care as this would exceed the animals' commercial value.
- Pet shops perpetuate and encourage puppy farms and backyard breeders.
- Pet shops do not promote responsible ownership. They profit from the impulsive buying of confused and frightened animals.
- Pet shops selling animals contribute to the already overwhelming problem of domestic animal overpopulation in South Africa.
- The exotic pet trade is a lucrative industry renowned for its extreme cruelty and ruthless exploitation of animals kept in the retail or breeding environment.
- South African pet shops, pet traders and animal brokers do not have a legally binding code of conduct or ethics, minimum standards or requirements.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Do not support “free to good home” advertising, or brokers who sell animals through the internet, or through newspaper advertising sections.
- Contact us for support or for assistance to organise a protest.



- Adopt your companion animal from one of the many animal shelters and rescue organisations in South Africa.
- Be an advocate for animals. Advise your friends and family about the real cruelty of the pet trade.
- Support local pet shops that don't sell animals, but food and accessories only.

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DO NOT SUPPORT THE EXOTIC PET TRADE. EXOTIC ANIMALS ARE NOT PETS.

FACTS ABOUT EXOTIC ANIMALS

- Exotic animals in South Africa are the wildlife of another country.
- The unregulated trade in exotic animals poses a threat to animals in the wild, as they are often wild-caught to supplement the gene pool.
- There is no way to make sure that the exotic animal bought as a pet, has not been snatched from the wild.
- Breeders of exotic species often say that breeding these animals in captivity, protects the species in the wild. This is not true. Private breeders mostly collect rare specimens, breed and then trade them for profit. This has nothing to do with conservation.
- Exotic animals are not domesticated animals: *“domestication is an evolutionary process that results in animals such as our companion dogs and cats who undergo substantial behavioural, anatomical, physiological and genetic changes during the process”* (Anthony Beckoff)
- Captive-bred is not the same as domesticated. Captive-bred animals still have the same instincts and needs as those in the wild.
- Exotic reptiles are often carriers of Zoonotic diseases that are transferred from the animal to the human.
- Reptiles in captivity can never be released into the wild in their original country,



because they may carry diseases that could be harmful to the wild reptiles.

- As long as the human demand for exotic pets continues, so will the trade.
- Thousands of exotic animals end up in rescue every year.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Do not support pet shops that sell exotic animals.
- Do not buy exotic animals as they are not pets and belong in the wild.
- Contact us for support or to organise a protest in your area.

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