



Pets...

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**We call
ourselves
a nation
of animal
lovers...
but are
we?**

**Each year, millions of
'exotic' animals are
stolen from the wild,
whilst rabbits, guinea
pigs, cats, dogs, rats,
fish and hamsters
are mass-produced to
supply the pet trade.**

**They are sold in
pet shops, garden
centres, on the
internet and through
newspaper adverts.**

www.animalaid.org.uk





Looking after an animal is a responsibility, not a right



Overbred

There are already thousands of abandoned animals in need of a good home, languishing in shelters. Some are never found new homes and are killed because there are simply too many to look after. So why deliberately create even more? Whilst these animals die, breeders continue to produce pedigree animals because they fetch large amounts of money. Potential owners are often unaware that pedigrees commonly suffer ongoing inherited health problems. These can result in costly veterinary bills. **If you have the time, space and commitment necessary to look after a companion animal, always adopt from a sanctuary rather than buying one.**



Bred for profit

It is cruel to confine creatures in cages and tanks, treating them as little more than living ornaments, or toys. Animals are sentient beings with complex needs. Imagine spending **your** life in captivity, denied freedom, companionship and stimulation. This is the fate of many pets.

Imprisoned



A life confined in a hutch

The problem of unwanted pets is not only caused by commercial enterprises. Individual owners, perhaps thinking it is natural, allow their cats, dogs and other pets to produce offspring. There are already too many animals in need of good homes without adding to the problem. Please spay and neuter your pets to prevent pregnancies.



Unloved

All too often, once the novelty of a new arrival wears off, animals are neglected or, worse, deliberately abused:

- Rabbits may never be taken out of filthy, cramped hutches.
- Fish are left gasping for air in bowls of dirty water.
- Lonely dogs bark on their own all day when their owners go off to work.

Just because animals are given food, water and shelter, it doesn't mean they are happy. **Before taking on an animal, seek advice about your pet and find out his or her specific needs.**

A typical scene of neglect



Wild-caught reptiles

Stolen from the wild

'Exotic' reptiles and fish are trapped in the wild using methods that result in appalling suffering and a high mortality rate. Many will die during transport to foreign destinations. There is now a ban on importing wild-caught birds, although trapped birds are still sold as 'captive-bred'. Whether wild-caught or bred in captivity, 'exotic' animals are destined to live unnatural, restricted lives.

No cage or tank can remotely match the conditions that birds, reptiles and fish would have in the wild.



Self-inflicted wound caused by stress



Garden centres should sell plants, **not** pets!

Garden centres are major retailers of pets

Selling in a garden centre environment encourages impulse purchases. If you have a pet-selling garden centre in your area, please urge the management to stop selling live animals. Their pet departments need not shut down; they can still sell food and accessories. Rather than contributing to the problem of animals being bred, bought and abandoned, garden centres should encourage people to adopt

a companion animal from a local rescue centre.



Please support this campaign against cruelty

She wants her freedom



Animal Aid exposes and campaigns peacefully against all animal abuse, and promotes a cruelty-free lifestyle

Please make cheques payable to **Animal Aid** and post to
**The Old Chapel, Bradford Street,
Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1AW**

**You can also donate online
at www.animalaid.org.uk
or by phone on 01732 364546**

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