

# Article 16: Humane Pet Shop Warrant

A measure to combat pet  
mills & the exotic pet trade

By Laura Kiesel, Arlington resident, Precinct 7



# Overview

1. Does not apply to animal shelters or private breeders
2. This is about pet mills & poaching
3. Would enable partnerships between pet shops and animal rescues
4. Preventative measure





■ Are there pet shops that sell live animals in Arlington?

Not yet

# 2.6 million

Puppies come from puppy mills every year



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While over 1 MILLION Dogs & Cats Are Euthanized Every Year in the US

*“Too Many Animals and Too Few Homes”*

# Not just puppies & kittens



## Mammals



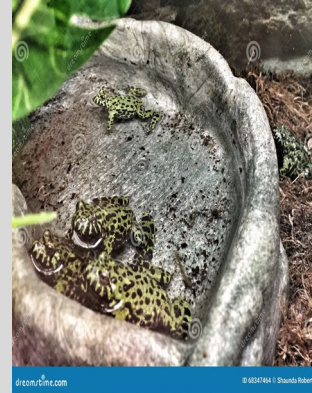
## Birds



## Reptiles



## Amphibians



## Fish



# Why Not Just Mammals?

- Just as there are puppy/kitten mills, so are there other pet mills for parrots, reptiles, and other species.
- Poaching animals from the wild is endangering animals/biodiversity.
- None of these animals are protected or recognized by the Animal Welfare Act.
- **VERY HIGH MORTALITY RATES: 75-90% die either before point of sale or within their first year purchase.**



# Fish

- 1 BILLION fish and 5,400 species are traded in the ornamental fish trade globally every year, w/U.S. as the #1 importer.
- Demand for pet fish is “contributing to the degradation of delicate coral ecosystems” (Source: AP News).



# Former Pets Are Becoming Invasive Species

- 56 species of pet birds are present in the wild 43 states including Massachusetts (example: Monk Parakeet)
- MassWildlife banned red-eared slider from pet sales in 2014 because “...unwanted [pet turtles] were released so often that they have now become established as a breeding non-native turtle in several areas of the state.”





Humane Pet Shop By-Law Press... x  
Thought Cute as Pets, Goldfish... x

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/though-cute-as-pets-goldfish-are-highly-invasive-once-in-the-wild-180980169/

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**SMART NEWS**

# Though Cute as Pets, Goldfish Are Highly Invasive Once in the Wild

The animal's insatiable appetites, bold behaviors and adaptability make them harmful to new environments

 **Elizabeth Gamillo**  
Daily Correspondent  
May 31, 2022

YouTube, Email, Gmail, Chrome, 10:03



“Goldfish, as voracious eaters, will devour snails, small insects, fish eggs, and young fish, out-competing native fish. They can also grow over a foot long outside in the wild.” -Smithsonian Magazine, 2022  
(Pictured: A 14-inch goldfish removed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the Niagara River)

# Widespread Support

- Many Arlington Residents
- The Select Board (unanimous 5-0 vote in favor)
- MSPCA
- Animal Defense League
- Boston Animal Rescue League
- Foster Parrots & RI Parrot Rescue
- House Rabbit Rescue & House Rabbit Connection
- Local Cat/Dog Rescues such as Broken Tail Rescue & Black Cat Rescue
- The Turtle Rescue League