



## How much is that reptile in the window?

Each year hundreds of thousands of live birds, reptiles, ornamental fish and corals are imported into the European Union to be sold as pets.

### Birds

Between 1997 and 2005, the EU imported about 5 million CITES-listed wild birds for the pet trade, most of which were parrots, parakeets, macaws and toucans. The African Grey Parrot is one of the most popular pet birds in Ireland and Europe.

In response to concerns over the spread of avian influenza ('bird flu'), the import of wild birds into the EU was banned in 2005.

### Reptiles

Live snakes, lizards, chameleons, geckos and tortoises are popular pets throughout Europe. In 2006, over 410,000 live CITES-listed reptiles were imported into the EU. Green Iguanas from El Salvador and royal pythons from West

Africa were imported in the highest numbers. In Ireland, reptiles appear to be increasing in popularity as pets.

### Fish and aquatic invertebrates

Ornamental fish and corals are popular with aquarium enthusiasts in Ireland and throughout Europe. Only a few ornamental fish species including seahorses are listed in CITES. All hard corals and black corals are listed in CITES Appendix II. European imports of aquatic invertebrates are mainly corals and clams from Southeast Asia and Oceania.

Although not listed in CITES, the Banggai Cardinal fish (pictured) was listed in Annex D of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations to monitor import levels due to concerns about the sustainability of the trade.