



Invasive “alien” species

Non-native species imported as pets can pose a threat to European species and habitats if they escape or are released into the wild. If these species adapt and breed in their new environment, they can become “invasive” and out-compete native species, threatening European biodiversity and economies.

The European Union has listed several species with “invasive potential” in the EU Regulations and imports of these species are not allowed. Invasive “aliens” include the Red-eared slider turtle (see photo) and the Ruddy duck.