

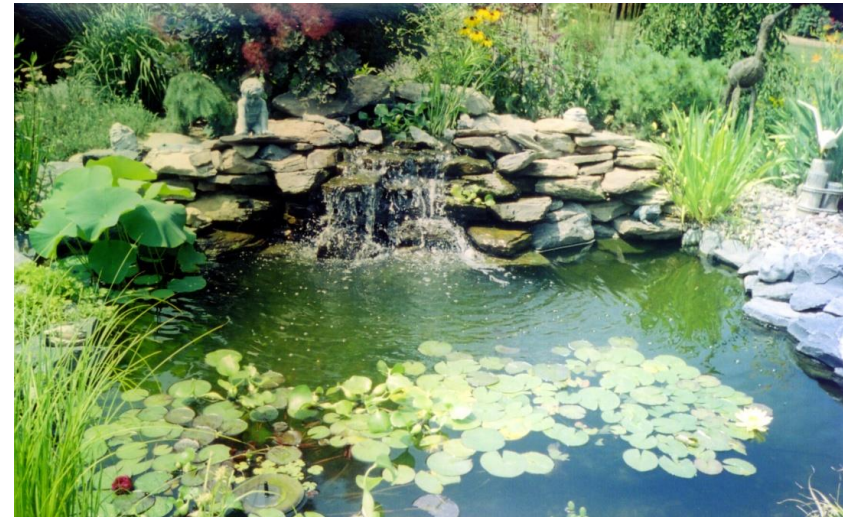
# Illinois Aquatic Pet Surrender Events, Rehoming and Care Networks

Greg Hitzroth, Danielle Hilbrich, Pat Charlebois



# Aquatic Pets and AIS

Commercial activity involving organisms in trade is one of the principal ways in which non-native organisms have been introduced into the Laurentian Great Lakes Keller and Lodge 2007



Illinois campaign to prevent introductions of novel organisms through the release of aquatic organisms used by aquarium hobbyists, water gardeners, users of live bait and classroom organisms.

Based on Aquatic Nuisance Task Force and Habitattitude guidelines.



**FIGHT THE SPREAD OF  
AQUATIC INVADERS**

**PLANTS**

BAG AND PLACE IN THE TRASH.

**ANIMALS**

FIND A NEW OWNER OR SEEK ADVICE ON  
HUMANE DISPOSAL.

**WATER**

DISINFECT OR REPURPOSE.

---

**RELEASEZERO.ORG**

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Difficultly with rehoming and humane disposal. Following Wisconsin's lead.



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# Alternatives to Pet Release

Pet Surrender Events

Pet Surrender Network

Pet Care Network



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# Pet Surrender Events



**petco**



**PIJAC**

PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL



# Illinois Organizations and People

IISG/INHS

University of Illinois Legal

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Conservation Police

Biologists

Regulatory

IL Department of Agriculture

Animal welfare/State Veterinarian

US Fish and Wildlife

Animal Control

Aquarium Fish Sanctuary

Chicago Herpetological Society

Green Bay Aquarium Society









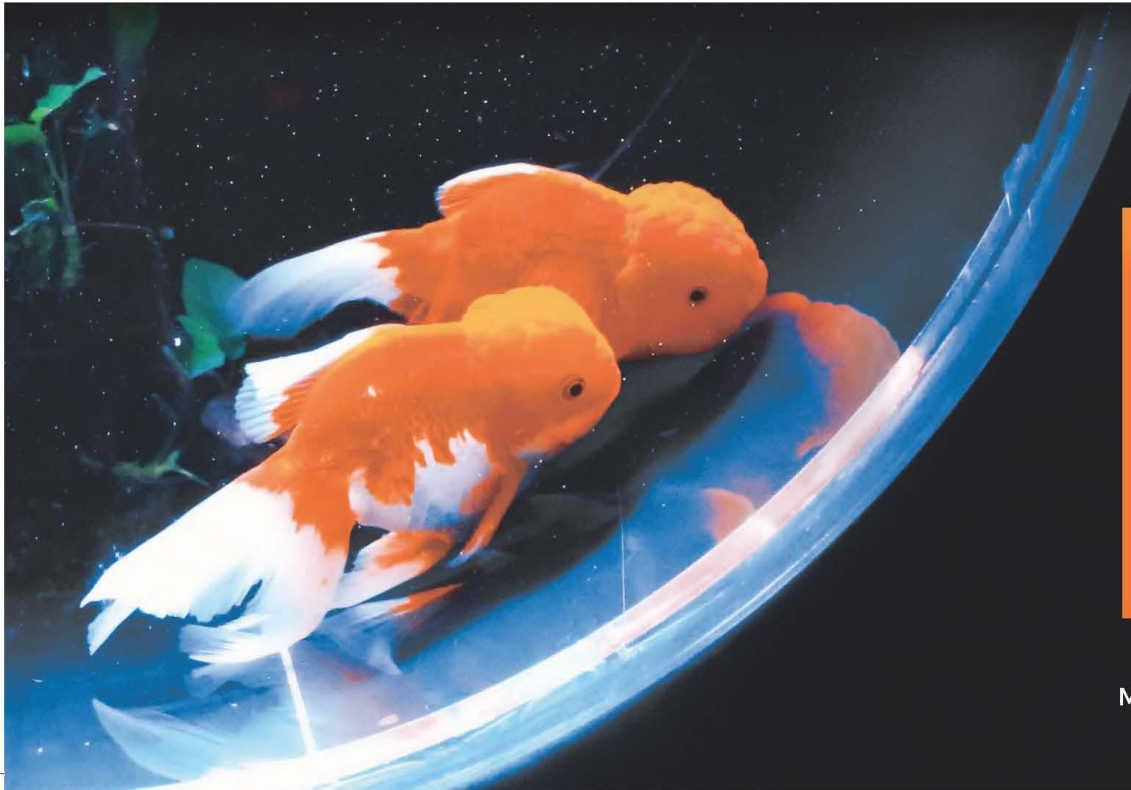
# Can't keep your aquatic pet?

Releasing aquarium and water garden pets can hurt them and the environment. Bring them to us instead!



FIGHT THE SPREAD OF  
AQUATIC INVADERS

- ❗ Only fish and aquatic invertebrates will be accepted. (e.g., crayfish, snails)
- ❗ Space is limited! Email us to ensure space for your pet at **BeAHeroReleaseZero@gmail.com.**
- ✓ No penalties for turning in regulated species.



SATURDAY  
**August 26<sup>th</sup>**  
10AM - Noon

.....

William W. Powers State  
Recreation Area  
Visitor Center  
12949 Avenue O  
Chicago IL 60633

More information available at [ReleaseZero.org](https://ReleaseZero.org).







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**FIGHT THE SPREAD OF  
AQUATIC INVADERS**

**OCTOBER 14<sup>th</sup>  
10AM - Noon**

Evanston Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd, Evanston, IL 60201

# ReleaseZero.org

HOME

TRANSPORT ZERO – AQUATIC

TRANSPORT ZERO – TERRESTRIAL

RELEASE ZERO

BECOME A PARTNER



**FIGHT THE SPREAD OF  
AQUATIC INVADERS**



**FIGHT THE SPREAD OF  
TERRESTRIAL INVADERS**



**FIGHT THE SPREAD OF  
AQUATIC INVADERS**

Can't keep your aquatic pet? **Bring it to us instead!**  
[Click here to learn more.](#)

## CAN'T KEEP YOUR AQUATIC PET?

**Releasing aquarium and water garden pets can hurt them and the environment.  
Bring them to us instead!**

[Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant](#) will be hosting one final aquatic pet "take-back" event in Chicagoland. At this event, pet owners can turn in aquatic pets that they're no longer able to care for to the [Aquarium Fish Sanctuary](#), which will rehome them.

- Please note that at this time, only fish and aquatic invertebrates will be accepted. Invertebrates include animals such as crayfish and snails.
- Space is limited! Email us to reserve space for your pet at [BeAHeroReleaseZero@gmail.com](mailto:BeAHeroReleaseZero@gmail.com).
- There will be no penalties for turning in regulated species.
- Nothing to turn in? Come see the [Chicago Herpetological Society](#) and [Aquarium Fish Sanctuary](#) animal exhibits.

### Event Details:

Saturday October 14th, 10am - Noon

[Evanston Ecology Center](#)

2024 McCormick Blvd, Evanston, IL 60201



# Advertisement Sums

244,480+ impressions over three events.

Facebook and Twitter (144,207 impressions; 15,277 interactions)

## Online

- Magazines

- Newspapers (40,000 impressions)

## Print

- Flyers/Posters

- Newspapers (59,823 impressions)

## Radio

- National Public Radio WBEZ Chicago.

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Zero animals



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SATURDAY  
**September 9<sup>th</sup>**  
10AM - Noon

.....  
Waukegan Harbor  
55 S Harbor Pl,  
Waukegan, IL 60085

More information available at [ReleaseZero.org](http://ReleaseZero.org).

Like 50 mystery snails  
Two goldfish









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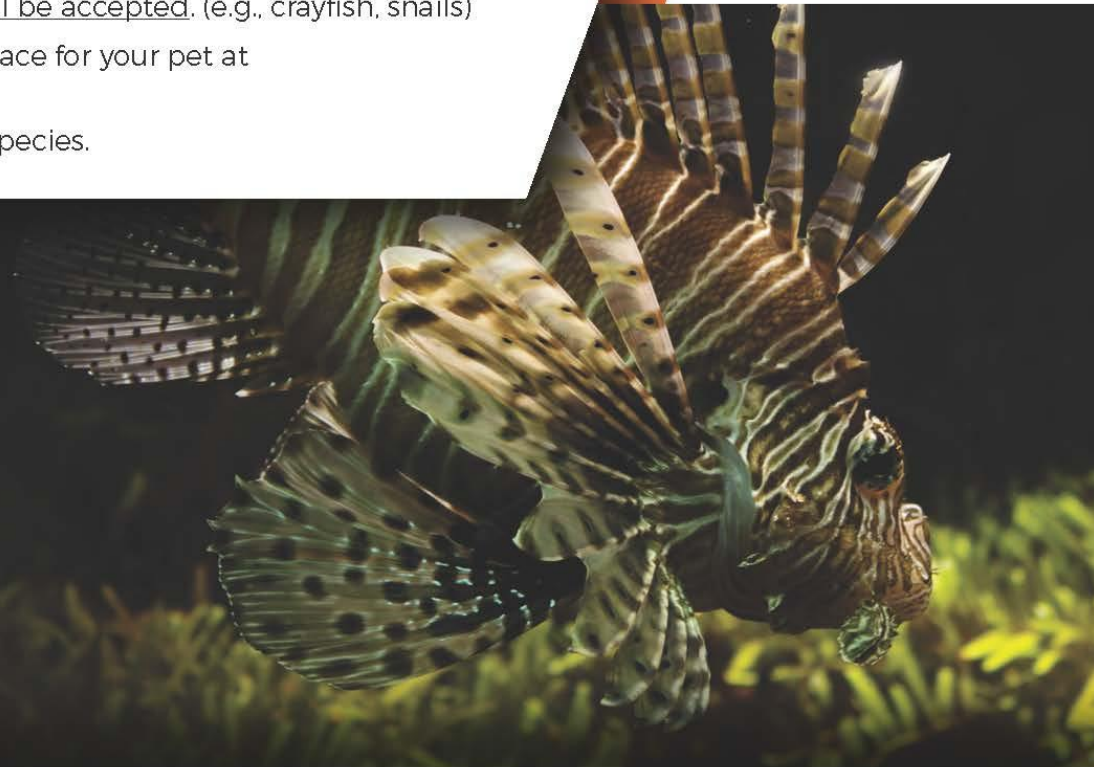
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Evanston Ecology Center  
2024 McCormick Blvd,  
Evanston, IL 60201

More information available at [ReleaseZero.org](https://ReleaseZero.org).



Two frogs  
A red eared slider  
Two goldfish  
A Plecostomus  
Two dogs  
Vince

**NOTHING**  
TO TURN IN?

**COME SEE** the Aquarium Fish Sanctuary  
and Chicago Herpetological Society  
**ANIMAL EXHIBITS**






[STATE/FEDERAL REGULATIONS](#)[STATE/FEDERAL CONTACTS](#)[OUTREACH RESOURCES](#)[PREDICTING INVADERS](#)[NOTRE DAME'S STAIR](#)

# Aquatic Invaders in the Marketplace

Once at home in a new area, aquatic invaders are expensive to control and almost always impossible to eliminate. Therefore, preventing the introduction of invaders is key.


Aquatic Invaders in the Marketplace


How Invasions Happen

Meet the Invaders

Preventing Invasions


Choose Non-Invasive


Alternatives to Pet Release


AIM 101


INVASION SCENARIO – CLASSROOM PETS


“My teacher let me take home our class pet, Mr. Crayfish. But my mom wouldn’t let me keep him, so we let him go in the creek at the end of our street.”



State & Federal Regulations

State & Federal Contacts

Predicting Invaders

Aquatic Invaders in the Marketplace

[ABOUT](#)[CONTACT US](#)[DISCLAIMER](#)[PARTNERS](#)

[UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS](#)[PRIVACY POLICY](#)

TakeAIM.org





# NEVER

RELEASE AQUATIC PETS.

GO TO

[RELEASEZERO.ORG](https://RELEASEZERO.ORG)

FIND A NEW OWNER

SEEK CARE ADVICE



[RELEASEZERO.ORG  
/RE-HOME](https://RELEASEZERO.ORG/RE-HOME)



[RELEASEZERO.ORG  
/AQUATIC-VETS](https://RELEASEZERO.ORG/AQUATIC-VETS)

Produced by Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant & Illinois Natural History Survey, Prairie Research Institute with funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources ©2017 The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois. IISG-17-#



## think adoption first

Petco encourages you to always consider adoption as the first option when thinking about adding a new companion to your family. Petco, the Petco Foundation and petfinder.com will help you find the perfect pet.



**Habitattitude**<sup>TM</sup>

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT  
DO NOT RELEASE FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS

PIJAC • U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE • NOAA'S SEA GRANT

[www.Habitattitude.net](http://www.Habitattitude.net)

# Thank you!

