

7. Remind people who own or have non-native pets as a hobby of the risk and possible impact of spread



PHOTO Red-eared slider. Luis Garcia CC-BY-SA-4.0

Many non-native pet species may thrive in the Finnish climate if they run away or are released into the wild. In fact, some species found in nature are suspected of having been released intentionally.

Globally, pet species released into nature have led to enormous damages to the native fauna and to people's livelihoods.

Benefits of the action

Spreading information about the possibly harm caused by released or runaway non-native pets can prevent new invasive alien species and their unpredictable impact.

Do this

Remind pet-owners of caring for their pets appropriately even when they cannot keep the pet any more. Abandoning pets and releasing them into nature is against the law.

Tell them about different options in finding a new home, e.g. with the help of animal protection organisations, or advise them to have the pet appropriately euthanised by a vet.

More information

Guidance for owners of non-native pets (vieraslajit.fi, in Finnish):

[New guidance for pet owners](#)

[Instructions for people who wish to quit their aquarium or terrarium hobby](#)

