ABOUT PETWATCH

PetWatch, a program of EcoHealth Alliance, provides consumers with a science-based list of the Best, Fair and Worst choices of exotic pets based on extensive research aimed at protecting animal welfare, native wildlife and resources, global biodiversity and public health. PetWatch is a first-of-its-kind consumer information program founded on scientific evidence that promotes safe pet purchases for all major animal groups including mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and birds.

To learn more, please visit **www.PetWatch.net.**

EcoHealth Alliance

WHY DO YOUR PET CHOICES MATTER?

It is important to examine the broader consequences of the wildlife trade, including the sale of wild animals as pets. The overharvesting of animals for the pet trade can potentially result in the extinction of species. Furthermore, the introduction of non-native species and diseases through wildlife trade represents a serious threat to native wildlife, livestock, household pets and human health.

PetWatch Recommendations:

- Choose captive-bred versus wild-caught pets

- Purchase pets from reputable sources and ask lots of questions

- Never release a pet into the wild

- Avoid pets with aggressive temperaments

TAKE ACTION

Help EcoHealth Alliance continue our research to protect and save wildlife species through our many innovative programs like PetWatch. Our scientists begin their work at the ecosystem level, combining conservation with health programs. Our expertise allows us to develop solutions to emerging infectious diseases like SARS, avian influenza, and Ebola virus that effect both animals and humans.

To make a donation please visit: **www.PetWatch.net.**

On the cover: The Bearded Dragon is considered a "Best" choice exotic pet based on PetWatch rankings.

PetWatch

A program of EcoHealth Alliance

EXOTIC PET POCKET REFERENCE

Best Choices

- Barramundi
- Bearded Dragon
- Chinese Fire Bellied Newt
- Cockatiel
- Common House Gecko
- Island Canary
- Neon Tetra
- Siamese Fighting Fish

Fair Choices

- African Pygmy Hedgehog
- Agouti
- Asian Grass Lizard
- Asian Water Dragon
- Ball Python
- Blue-capped Cordon Bleu
- Chinchilla
- Chinese Soft-Shelled Turtle
- Dwarf African Clawed Frog
- Goldfinch
- Goldfish
- Green Iguana
- Guppy
- Horned (Pac-Man) Frog
- Koi or Common Carp
- Largemouth Bass
- Long-tailed Finch
- Pacific Fat Sleeper
- Panther Chameleon
- Puddle Frog
- Quaker Parakeet
- Red Avadavat
- Red-Eared Slider
- Red-footed Tortoise
- Sugar Glider
- Tiger Salamander
- Tokay Gecko
- White's Tree Frog
- Zaire Dwarf Clawed Frog

Worst Choices

- African Clawed Frog
- African Grey Parrot
- American Mink
- Asian Swamp Eel
- Boa Constrictor
- Burmese Python
- Bushbaby
- Common Marmoset
- European/American Eel
- Fennec Fox
- Gouldian Finch
- Lionfish
- North American Bullfrog
- Rhesus Macaque
- Russian Tortoise
- Squirrel Monkey
- Tree Shrews

BIRDS   MAMMALS   REPTILES   AMPHIBIANS   FISH

About The Rankings

PetWatch evaluates each species using the best available science following a standardized methodology. Rankings include general species information as well as overall recommendations for consumers.

Best Choices

Animals that are not at risk of extinction and are easily bred and cared for in captivity. They pose little or no health risks or invasive threats to native wildlife.

Fair Choices

Animals that may be threatened or endangered and require specialized care. These pets may also carry harmful diseases.

Worst Choices

Animals that are at the highest risk of extinction and are extremely invasive. They also pose significant health threats to people and other animals.

For more in-depth information, please visit – www.PetWatch.net