

Pet and Aquarium Retailer Program

Code of Conduct



Code of Conduct	Example Practice
Comply with federal, provincial/territorial and regional regulations and bylaws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with regulated invasive species listed in Alberta • Review applicable lists of regulated invasive species at the national, provincial, and municipal levels • Relevant invasive species lists for Alberta can be found here: Fisheries (Alberta) Act, Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pests Act, Fisheries Act, and Fisheries Regulations (whichever lists the species) • It is mandatory to comply with regulations and bylaws
Stay up to date on best practices to avoid purchasing or moving invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the Alberta Invasive Species Council’s social media feeds for up- to-date information and tips • Check out the Alberta Invasive Species Council’s website for upcoming webinars, conferences, new listed species, etc. • Liaise with regional experts and stakeholders to determine which species in your region are known to be invasive, or are identified as a potential risk for becoming invasive • Invite local invasive species experts to conduct short on-site education sessions with staff or customers on invasive species issues • Access professional associations’ education and training websites to find webinars, short courses, and events
Educate customers on responsible ownership – no plant or animal should be released into the wild, ever	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share Don’t Let It Loose educational materials about preventing the introduction and spread of known invasive species with your clients and customers • Help pet owners understand the lifespan and long-term needs of all pets before considering purchase or adoption • Partner with local organizations to offer on-site education and info sessions for customers • Understand characteristics that make species invasive such as being a prolific reproducer, spreading easily, establishing in areas quickly and lacking natural predators • Include “invasive” descriptions and warnings for invasive species in your catalogues

<p>Grow or offer alternatives to known invasive plants and animals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase out or dispose of existing stocks of specific high-risk invasive species or cultivars in regions where they are considered a threat • Grow and sell only non-invasive ornamentals. Suggest using alternatives where feasible
<p>Identify species in your business by both common and Latin names</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use internationally recognized species naming databases to find all accepted names and synonyms, both common and Latin • ITIS is the Integrated Taxonomic Information System. Here you will find authoritative taxonomic information on plants, animals, fungi, and microbes of North America and the world • VASCAN is the Database of Vascular Plants in Canada • PLANTS Database - USDA PLANTS covers North America • IPNI is the International Plant Names Index
<p>Report unknown or unintentionally purchased species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasionally, species can be embedded or attached to the products, packaging, and other species ordered by suppliers and retailers (ex. invasive Zebra mussels embedded in aquarium moss balls). Contain species and contact your local invasive species organization if you are unsure of species. If applicable, report to the appropriate agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Alberta ○ Canadian Food Inspection Agency
<p>Dispose of invasive species humanely and responsibly, ask for support when needed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine best locally recommended disposal methods for specific species; liaise with invasive species experts when additional information is needed • Plants • Destroy high-risk plants in inventory, or label them as invasive at point of sale • Bagging, tarping, and drying are effective methods for invasive plant material disposal • Dispose of bagged plant parts in the trash and not the compost • Animals • If necessary, seek a qualified veterinarian to euthanize the animal in a humane manner. • To dispose of deceased animals properly, check the Government of Alberta website for more info. Releasing animals, alive or deceased, directly into the wild or waterways can spread diseases.