

Prevention is better than cure: how to avoid impact and management of alien squirrels



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LIETUVOS
GYVŪNŲ TEISIŲ
APSAUGOS
ORGANIZACIJA



AnimalfreeResearch

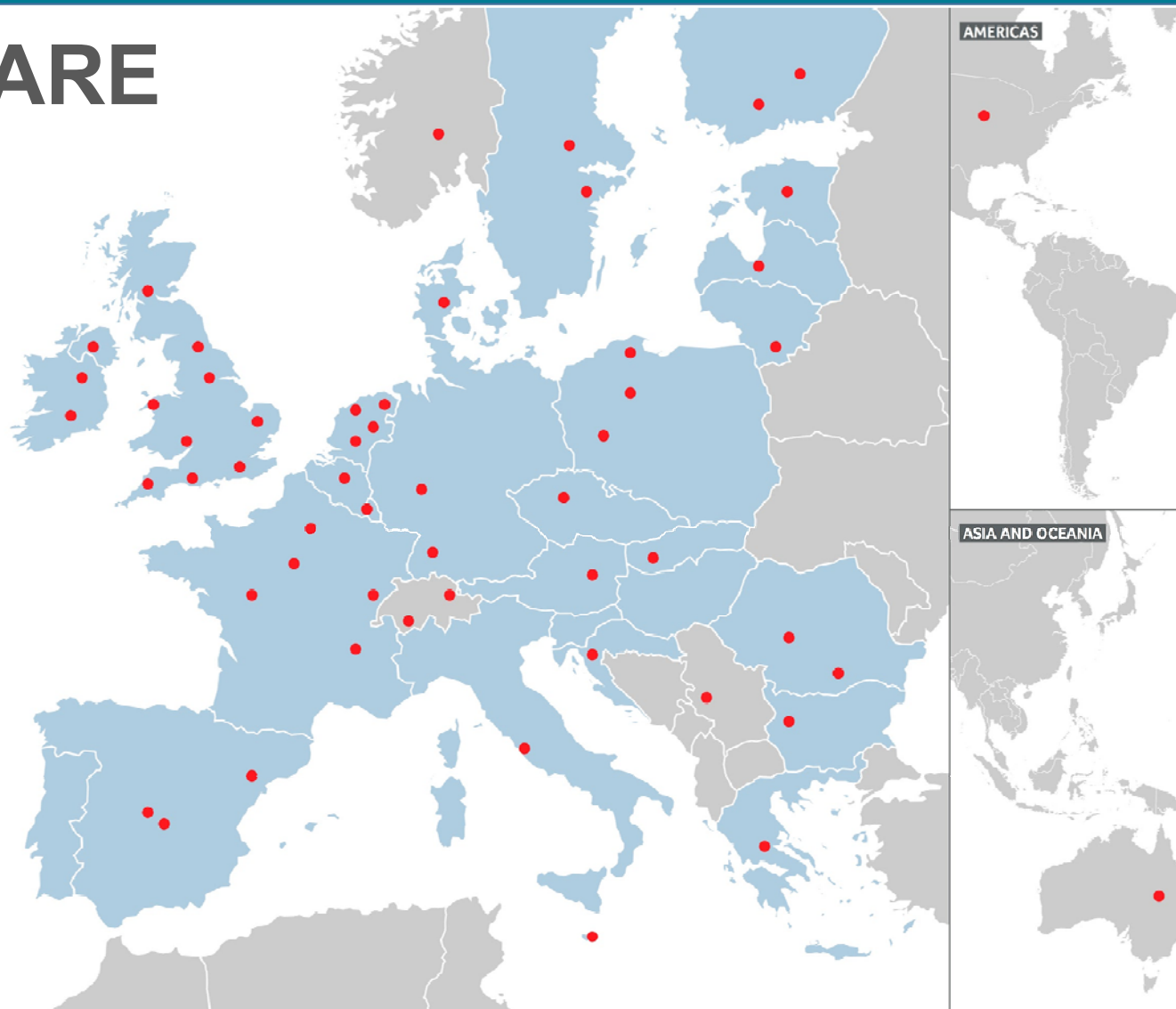


Dyreveralliansen



WHO WE ARE

We are
**60 Member
organisations**
in **24 EU Member
States** and beyond



The international exotic pet trade is a main pathway for IAS

- Escapes
- Intentional releases



Pomacea insularum

WHAT IS THE EU DOING?

EU Regulation on IAS prohibited species updating process.  Negative List of slow & burdensome

What is a Positive List?

A list of species allowed to be traded and kept as pets by the general public



A single List to guarantee:

1. Animal Welfare
2. Animal Health
3. Human Health and Safety
4. Environmental Protection



Toy vs living animal



- No sharp edges
- Parts (eg eyes) secure
- Cleanable
- Fire resistant
- ID labels confirm safe standards
-



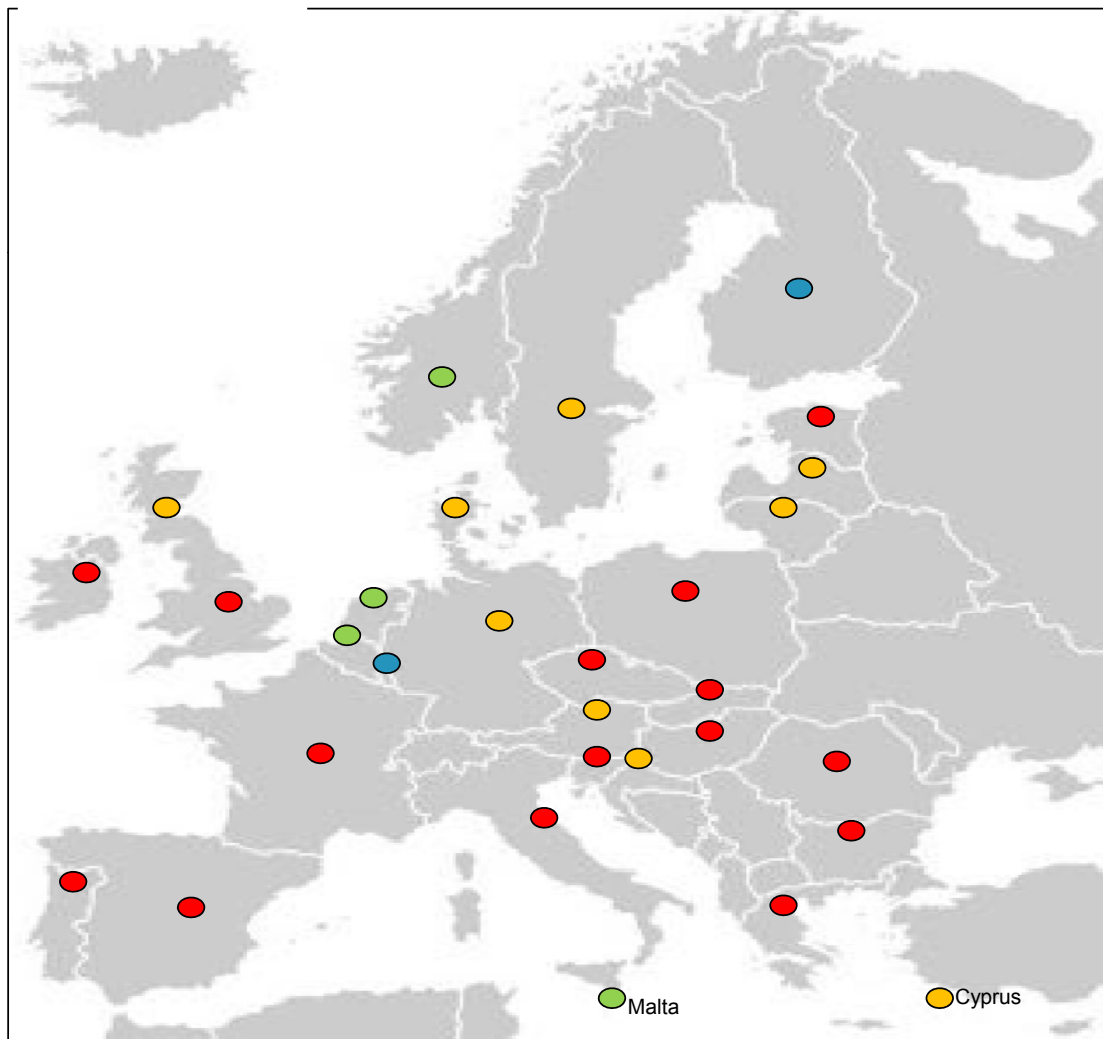
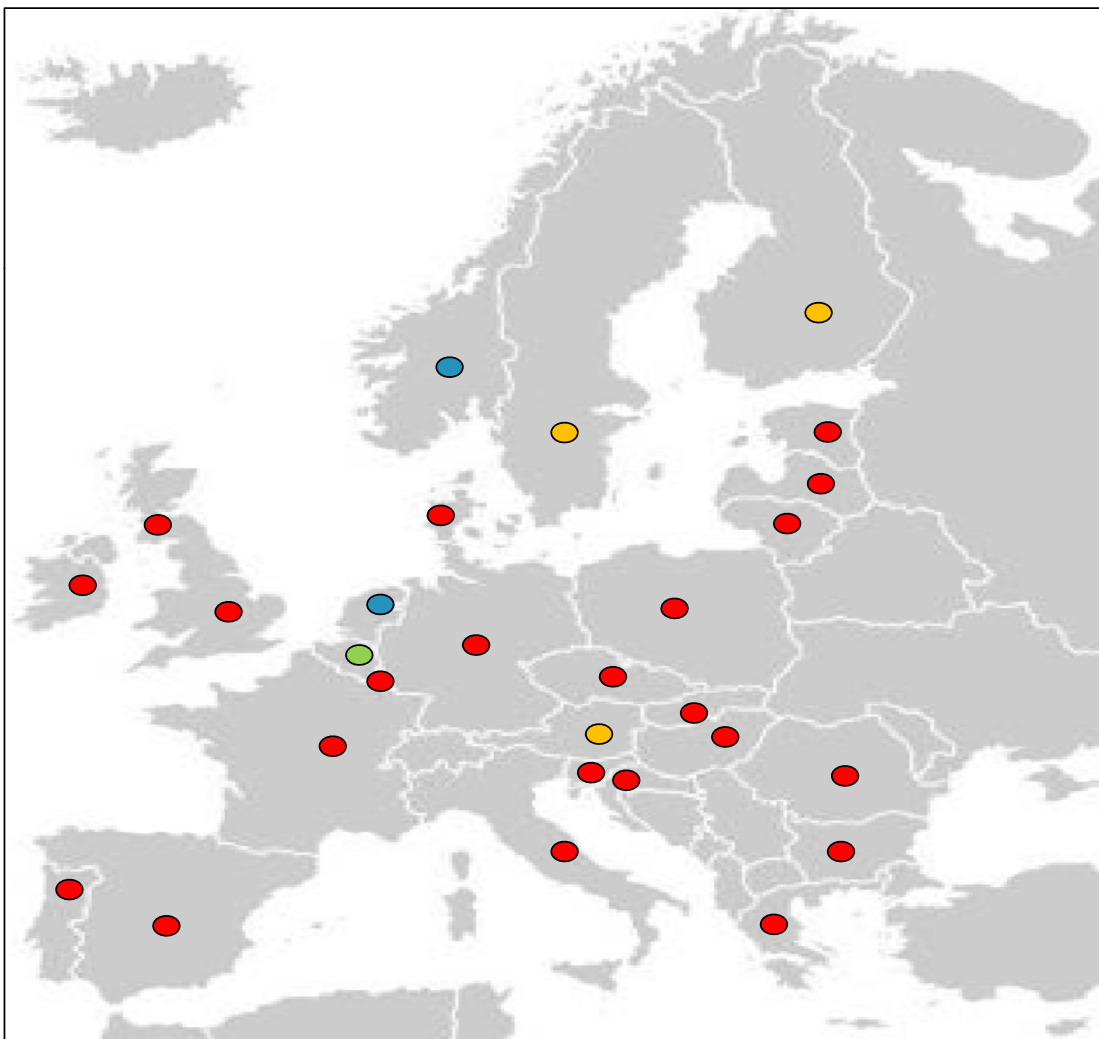
- Bite, scratch
- Easily harmed
- Impossible to clean
- Almost certainly infective
- Virtually impossible to care for well
- ID labels would confirm unsafe

● Negative List

● Positive List under consideration

● Positive List in a law proposal

● Positive List



2013

2018



Karmenu VELLA

European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

BELGIUM AND THE POSITIVE LIST: A SUCCESS STORY



5 objective criteria:

- Easy to keep and capable of being given shelter with respect for fundamental animal needs
- No particular danger to human health
- No threat to local fauna if escape
- Bibliographic data on the keeping of the species is available
- Conflict between data/insufficient data: benefit of the doubt goes to the animal.

- General derogation:
 - Zoological gardens
 - Circuses
 - Laboratories
 - Private persons
 - Animals already in possession
 - With a license



HISTORY

- ❖ 2001: Royal Decree fixing a list of 42 mammal species
- ❖ Possibility for private persons to obtain a license for keeping other species
- ❖ Evaluation on scientific basis



HISTORY



Legal challenges:

- ❖ Quantitative restrictions on imports and all measures having equivalent effect shall be prohibited between member states;
- ❖ Positive list is not proportionate to the objective pursued

Andibel ruling (2008, European Court of Justice):

- ❖ Restrictions may be justified for protection of the environment
- ❖ Animal welfare is a legitimate objective in the public interest
- ❖ List must be based on objective, non discriminatory criteria
- ❖ A procedure must exist for adding new species to the list.
- ❖ New Royal Decree

Koninkrijk België

**FEDERALE OVERHEIDSDIENST
VOLKSGEZONDHEID, VEILIGHEID
VAN DE VOEDSELKETEN EN
LEEFMILIEU**

Koninklijk besluit van 16 juli 2009 tot
vaststelling van de lijst van niet voor
productiedoeleinden gehouden zoogdieren
die gehouden mogen worden

ALBERT II, Koning der Belgen,

Aan allen die nu zijn en hierna wezen zullen,
Onze Groet.

Gelet op de wet van 14 augustus 1986
betreffende de bescherming en het welzijn der
dieren, artikel 3bis, §§ 1 en 2, ingevoegd bij de
wet van 4 mei 1995 en gewijzigd bij de
programmawet van 22 december 2003, artikel 44,
eerste lid, gewijzigd bij de programmawet van 22
december 2003, en artikel 46, gewijzigd bij de
wet van 4 mei 1995;

Royaume de Belgique

**SERVICE PUBLIC FEDERAL SANTE
PUBLIQUE, SECURITE DE LA CHAINE
ALIMENTAIRE ET ENVIRONNEMENT**

Arrêté royal du 16 juillet 2009 fixant la liste
des mammifères non détenus à des fins de
production qui peuvent être détenus

ALBERT II, Roi des Belges,

A tous, présents et à venir, Salut.

Vu la loi du 14 août 1986 relative à la protection
et au bien-être des animaux, l'article 3bis, §§ 1er
et 2, inséré par la loi du 4 mai 1995 et modifié
par la loi programme du 22 décembre 2003,
l'article 44, alinéa 1er, modifié par la loi
programme du 22 décembre 2003, et l'article 46,
modifié par la loi du 4 mai 1995;

English name

Red-necked wallaby
Dog
Cat
Ferret
Donkey (domesticated version)
Equus Hybrid (hybrid of donkey and horse)
Horse
Hinny (Hybrid of horse and donkey)
Pig
Llama (Domesticated version)
Guanaco
Alpaca (Domesticated version)
Chital deer
Red deer
Fallow deer
Domestic cow
Water buffalo (Domesticated version)
Goat (Domesticated version)
Alpine ibex
Mountain sheep
Sheep (Domesticated version)
Black-tailed prairie dog

Scientific name

Macropus rufogriseus
Canis familiaris
Felis catus
Mustela furio
Equus asinus
Equus asinus x Equus caballus
Equus caballus
Equus caballus x Equus asinus
Sus scrofa
Lama glama
Lama guanicoe
Lama pacos
Axis axis
Cervus elaphus
Dama dama
Bos taurus
Bubalus bubalis
Capra hircus
Capra ibex
Ovis ammon
Ovis aries
Cynomys ludovicianus

THE NETHERLANDS AND THE POSITIVE LIST

- 2014: Wageningen UR Livestock Research was requested to identify a methodology to assess the species to be included in the list.
- 2015: Adoption of the PL Ministerial Decree
- 2017: traders' lawsuit
- 2018: new committee convened



CONCLUSIONS

- It works!
- Scientific and objective approach
- Procedure to add species
- No legal objections
- Enforcement is easy
- Countries' peculiarities → different solutions
- Yes, prevention is better than cure!



THANK YOU!

