

**Question for written answer E-002442/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Annika Bruna (ID), Aurélia Beigneux (ID), Elżbieta Kruk (ECR), André Rougé (ID), Rosanna Conte (ID)

Subject: Controls on the sale of new kinds of pets

New kinds of animals are being kept as pets. Mostly, these are reptiles, exotic birds and rodents, but other species are also kept. They are captured in their natural habitat without regard to biodiversity: examples thereof are the Sakalava gecko (Madagascar), the juvenile green tree python (Indonesia) or the grey parrot (Gabon).

These new kinds of pets are mistreated in two ways:

during their carriage to Europe. Sometimes birds are drugged and carried in hand luggage in order to smuggle them through airports. For every bird that survives the journey, five die en route.

during their captivity. These animals need the right living conditions, an in-depth knowledge of their species and time spent with them if they are to survive in captivity. Without this, they die — 75 % of reptiles die in their first year of living with a private individual — or are abandoned in the countryside, with the risk that they may become an invasive species, as has happened with the red-eared slider or the rose-ringed parakeet.

Would the Commission be prepared to draw up, with the Member States, a closed and restrictive list of wild species that are authorised for keeping as pets?