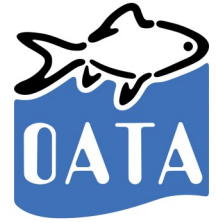


Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association (OATA)

The 'voice' of the home aquarium industry



Manifesto 2023

Fish are the most populous pet in the UK yet probably the least recognised. Help protect the important role pets, including pet fish, play in UK homes by supporting our manifesto pledges.

Support pet ownership in all its forms

Reject calls for bans of exotic or wild collected pets through the introduction of positive lists or other means. Instead look at ways to support people to successfully keep their pets throughout their life through education, advice and information.

We need a range of different kinds of pets because not every pet is for everyone. Educating people to pick the right pet for their lifestyle and care for it properly makes it more likely people will look after that pet for the duration of its life.

Protect pet shops' ability to sell live animals





Support pet shops to continue to sell live animals by improving inspections, simplifying bureaucracy and regularising the fees local councils charge.

Pet shops are great places for people to buy some pets like fish. They are required by law to have staff trained and knowledgeable in the species they sell and to have care information which offers the chance for face-to-face conversations about how to care for the new pet. You do not find this with online sellers.

Address the insufficiency in provision of live animal Border Control Posts (BCP) at seaports

There will be only one seaport (Sevington inland border facility) to handle ALL live animal imports from the EU that come across the Channel. That includes farm animals, pets and other types of live animal imports such as ornamental fish. This will place enormous pressures on all Border Control Posts leading to massive delays and serious welfare impacts.

To avoid serious animal welfare impacts, Government should rethink its approach to the provision of seaport facilities at the UK Border. These could include a range of options such as:

-  *Introducing a reciprocal veterinary agreement with the EU to enable the import/export of live animals between the UK and the EU without the need for inspections at the Border on entry.*
-  *Giving access to the planned Trusted Trader scheme for aquatic businesses with a good history of compliance. Tropical fish present a very low biosecurity risk to the UK.*
-  *Extending the Points of Destination scheme to live animals (currently in place for certain plant imports) to enable inspections to take place away from the Border. This would work very well for ornamental fish.*
-  *Building more BCPs at other commonly used seaports on the GB coast. One seaport to serve the whole of the UK is just untenable.*

Require local authority inspectors to be trained in all pet species

Make it mandatory for all local authority licensing officers to undertake good quality training in the pet species they are likely to encounter in pet shops.

Around 75% of UK pet shops licensed to sell animals sell pet fish so licensing officers need to be trained on all the species they will come across to enable them to properly carry out inspections.



Key facts about the UK ornamental aquatics industry



Economic value



£666m

Retail value
(inc online sales)

£133m
VAT



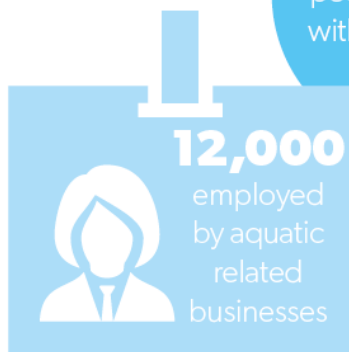
Freshwater fish results in

£155.71
in fish sales

£374.95
dry goods
sales

£56.40
plants

Employment



12,000

employed
by aquatic
related
businesses

50,000

people employed
within pet industry



8.5
m

customers visit aquatic retailers

£1 billion

Value of
the aquatic
pet trade

£216.88m
VAT

Ownership



7m

indoor fish tanks

100m+

pet fish kept
in the UK

6m

garden
ponds



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Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association is the 'voice' of the UK ornamental aquatics industry

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