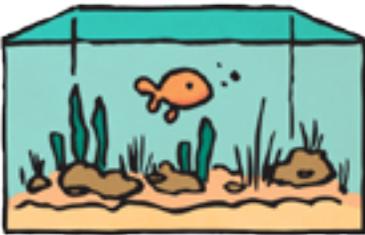


# DON'T LET YOUR PETS BECOME PESTS.



## NEVER DUMP YOUR UNWANTED AQUARIUM LIFE INTO THE WILD.



Your aquarium fish, animals and plants are likely not native to Texas. This makes them an invasive species. When they're dumped into the wild they can introduce disease or become serious predators, killing off local fish colonies and damaging reefs and vegetation that keep our underwater ecosystem alive and healthy.

Already, invasive species like the Lionfish and the Plecostomus are wreaking havoc on our aquatic ecosystems. We need your help in preventing the spread or introduction of new invasive species.



**If you can't keep your aquarium fish, plants or animals anymore, consider these options to responsibly get rid of them.**



### FIND A NEW FAMILY FOR YOUR FISH.

If your fish or aquatic animal is healthy, find it a new home. You can give it to a friend with an aquarium, or maybe even the store you bought it from. You can also donate your fish to a school, business or another aquarium hobbyist. Aquatic plants can be thrown in the trash.



## HUMANELY EUTHANIZE.

If you can no longer care for your fish and cannot find it a new home, euthanasia may be the best option. There are humane ways to end your fish's life. Never flush your fish. It's inhumane and hard on your plumbing, too.

### Here are some responsible options:

**Option 1:** Prepare a euthanasia bath with the appropriate drug combination. You can use MS-22 or tricaine methanesulfonate, an FDA approved drug for fish euthanasia. It is sometimes called Finquel or Tricaine-S and can be bought at a pet store. An alternative to this is clove oil. Large doses of whichever chemical you choose will need to be added to a separate tank to ensure proper euthanasia.

- MS-22: Use 5-10 times the amount the label recommends for anesthesia. This is about 250-500mg/l.
- Clove oil: 13 drops per liter of water.



**Option 2:** Another alternative is to physically kill the fish. This may sound brutal, but it is quick and painless for your fish. To do it, decapitate the fish by holding its head down and quickly severing it from the body, just behind the skull. Then pith the brain immediately by inserting a sharp knife into the brain between the eyes. Do this quickly to ensure humane treatment. Larger fish might require the assistance of a veterinarian.



For more information, call Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. at **512-389-4620** or email [cfish@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:cfish@tpwd.texas.gov). You can also visit [texasinvasives.org/neverdumpyourtank](http://texasinvasives.org/neverdumpyourtank)