

INFORMATION LEAFLET

Importation of Amphibian species to Jersey

This information is for importers to Jersey of amphibian species to raise awareness and to assist in the control of infectious disease.

There is a great concern amongst biologists regarding the global threat of extinction to many populations of amphibians. Current threats are several and varied, but the largest threats commonly facing amphibians worldwide are that of Chytridiomycosis, a fungal disease of the skin and Rana Viruses, a group of highly infectious viruses that can decimate amphibian populations. Current research indicates that Jersey does not have these diseases, and we are working hard to ensure that they do not arrive here.

Jersey has three native, amphibian species; The agile frog *Rana dalmatina*; the common toad *Bufo bufo*; and the palmate newt *Triturus helveticus*. Of these, the agile frog is classed as threatened, and the common toad as vulnerable. Work is being carried out to conserve these important local populations.

It is considered that the most likely way of disease arriving in Jersey is through the importation of infected animals. Because some species are more susceptible than others, and because it can take some time for disease symptoms to show, it is not always possible to tell if an animal is infected for some time. The diseases are very contagious and should they reach our native populations, the results could be disastrous.

We would be grateful for your assistance in a number of matters;

- Please ensure that alien species never come into contact with our native herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians).
- Under no circumstances should alien species be released into the wild (including gardens).
- If the amphibians in your garden become sick or die, please inform the Environment Department (we would be grateful for the corpse if possible).
- If your pet amphibian becomes sick you should contact your private veterinary surgeon. If it dies the Environment Department would be grateful for the corpse if possible.
- Please ensure hygiene is excellent. Do not dispose of any materials from your terrarium in a place where native herpetofauna can come into contact with it, this includes water, plant material, rocks and wood/bark etc. Any materials should be disposed of by double bagging and placed in your dustbin for incineration. Water should be flushed down the toilet.
- Please ensure that your hands are washed after handling alien species.
- Please ensure that clothing and shoes, used when working with alien species are not used when visiting the countryside.
- Remember that amphibians may use your garden, and you should ensure that there is no transmission route for infectious disease from your animals to the wild.