

# Exotic Pet Amnesty Program

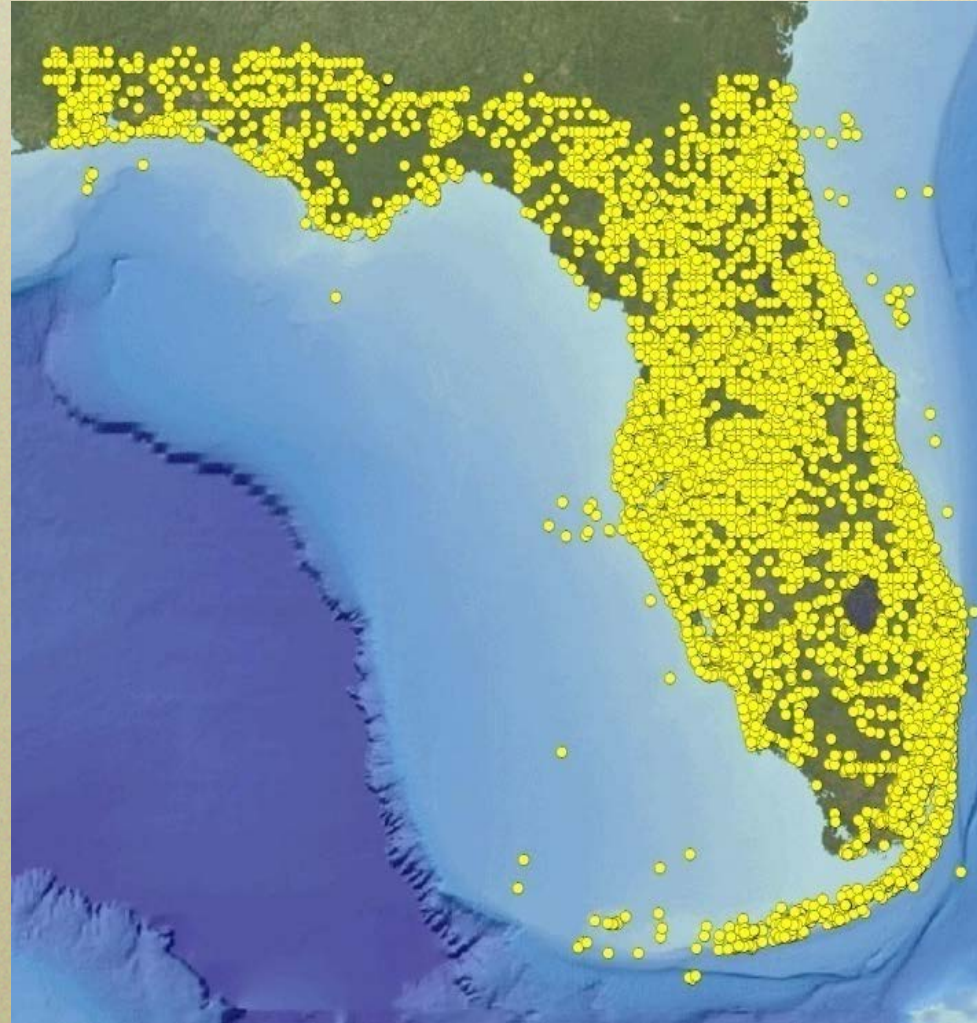
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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Wildlife Impact Management



- Over 600 nonnative wildlife species have been observed
- More than 150 thought to have reproducing populations
- Where did all of these come from?





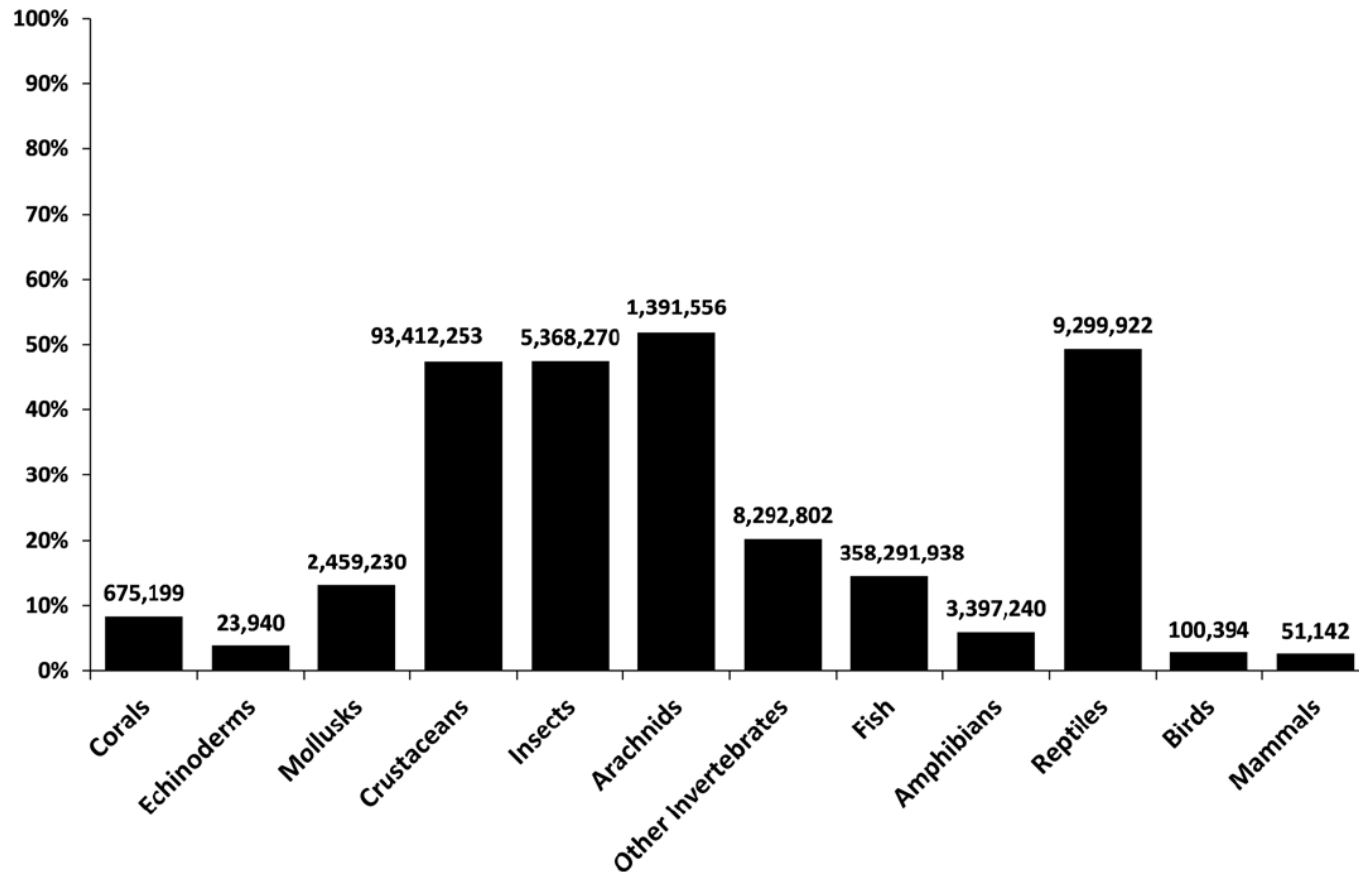
# One Pathway-Pet Trade





# Pet Trade

Percentage of all live animal imports that enter US through Florida ports  
(1999-2010)





# State Regulations

**Class I-** Very dangerous

**Class II-** Not as dangerous

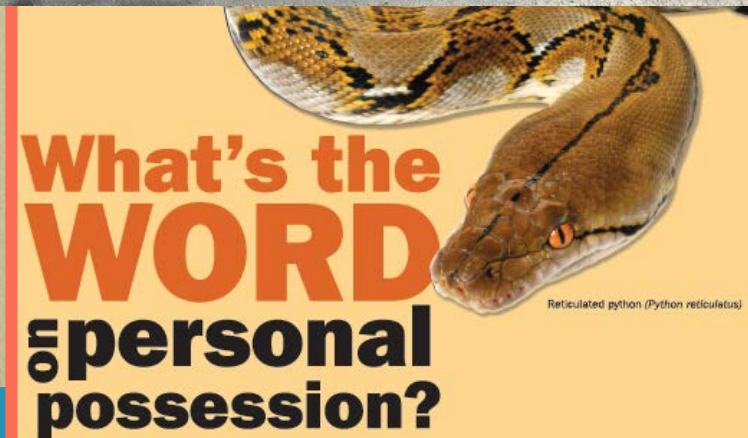
**Class III-** Everything else

## Prohibited Species

- Gambian pouched rats
- Piranhas
- Sea snakes

## Conditional Species

- Burmese pythons and six other large constrictors, Nile Monitors, red-eared sliders
- Lots of fish.





# Prevention



**Exotic Pet**



**Amnesty Program**  
**Great pets. Great homes.**





# Pet Amnesty: Mission

- The Exotic Pet Amnesty Program (EPAP) was developed in 2006
- Prevent and reduce unlawful releases of nonnative pets by providing an alternative to “Letting it Loose”
- Foster responsible pet ownership through outreach and education at amnesty events





# 68-5.004 Amnesty for Persons Relinquishing Nonnative Pets



To encourage persons possessing unwanted non-native fish or wildlife to relinquish pets to qualified adopters as an alternative to releasing them into Florida's environment.





# How Does the Program Work?

- One day events held throughout the state where individuals can surrender exotic animals...No questions asked!
- Surrendered animals adopted the same day by pre-registered qualified adopters
- Year round adoptions through toll free number: 1-888-Ive-Got1





# How Does the Program Work?

- Partner with numerous government and private agencies in co-hosting events





# How Does the Program Work?



- Promote becoming an adopter at local festivals, family events, etc.
- Press meet and greets and news releases for each event
- Encourage people to research care requirements for an animal before buying a pet
- Educate the public on the threats of releasing exotic animals into the wild





# Exotic Pet Amnesty Adoptions



Since 2006

- 32 Events
- 1629 animals rehomed

Since 2011

- 687 animals rehomed through hotline





# Success since 2006

Year	Number of Events	Number of Animals Surrendered			Running Total
		Events	Hotline	Total	
2006	1	6		6	6
2007	1	50		50	56
2008	2	203		203	259
2009	3	252		252	511
2010	3	132		132	643
2011	2	126	90	216	859
2012	6	279	227	506	1365
2013	7	188	152	340	1705
2014	5	252	156	408	2113
2015	2	141	62	203	2340
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32*</b>	<b>1629*</b>	<b>687*</b>	<b>2340*</b>	





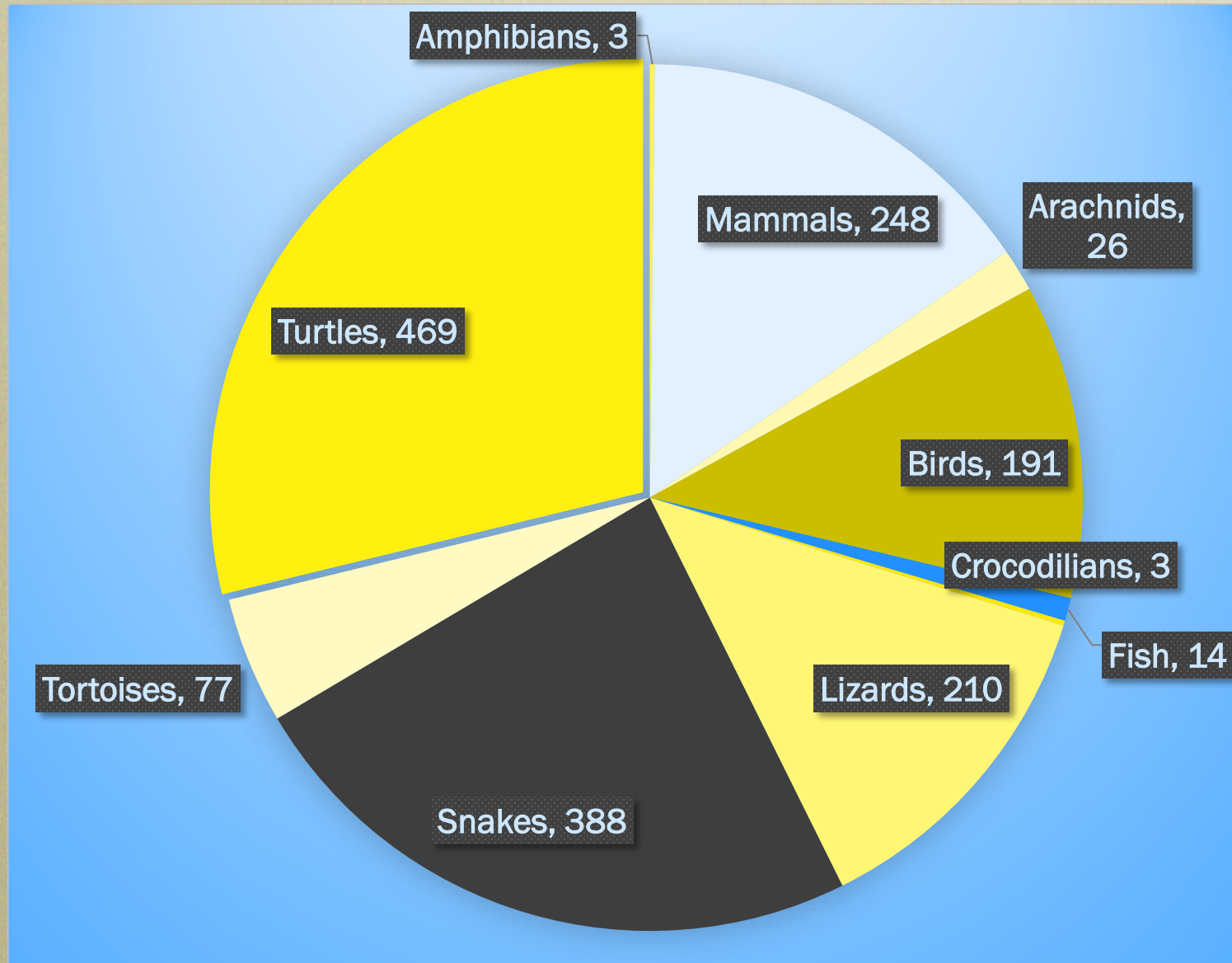
# Surrendered Animals

- Common animals purchased at pet stores
  - Ex: Sulcata tortoises, bearded dragons, and ball pythons



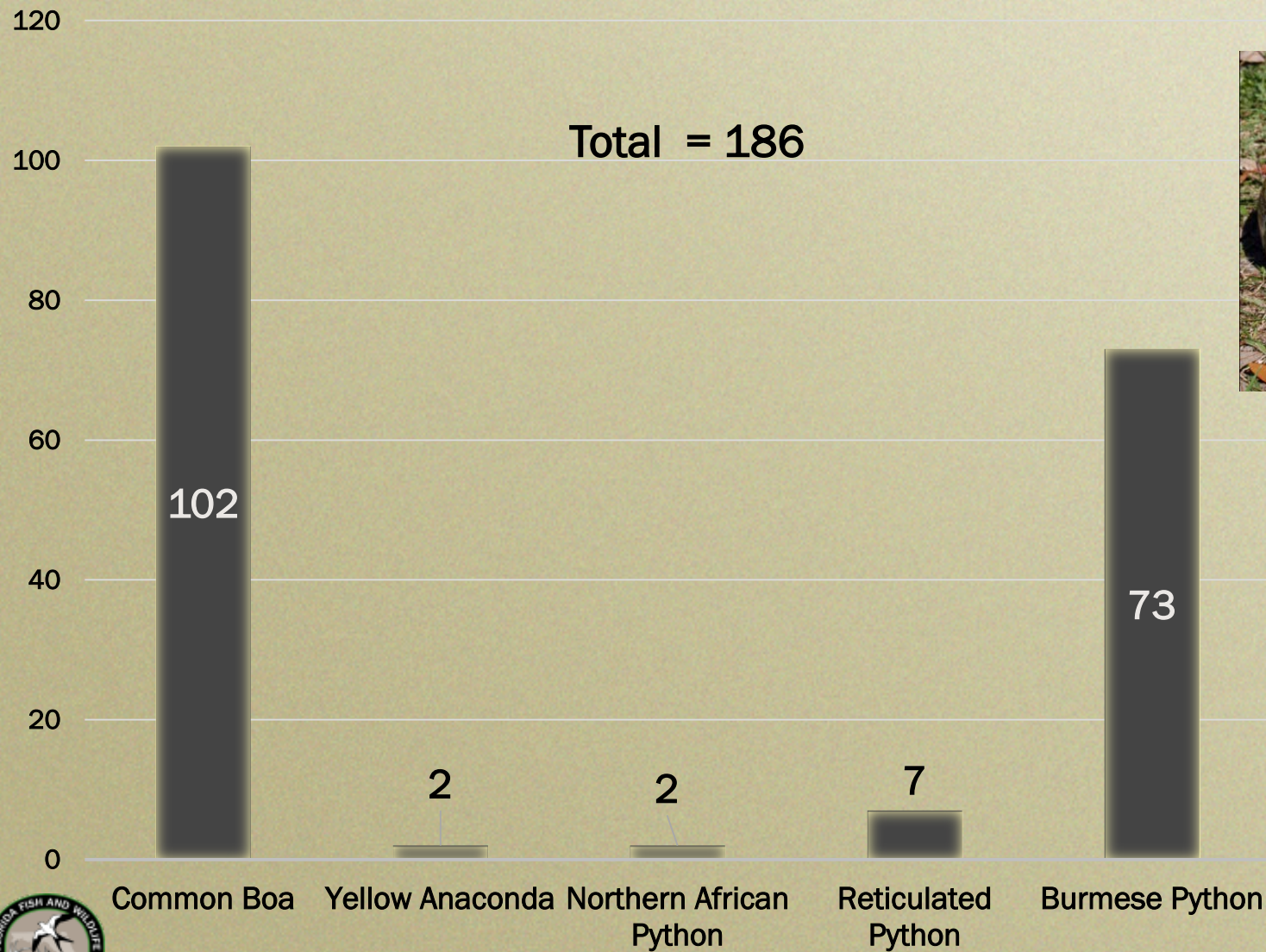


Total of  
1629  
animals  
since 2006.  
141 so far  
in 2015.





# Constrictors Surrendered





# Challenges

- Unanticipated species and volume
- On occasion less common animals are surrendered
  - Ex- Serval, monkey species, kinkajous





# Challenges

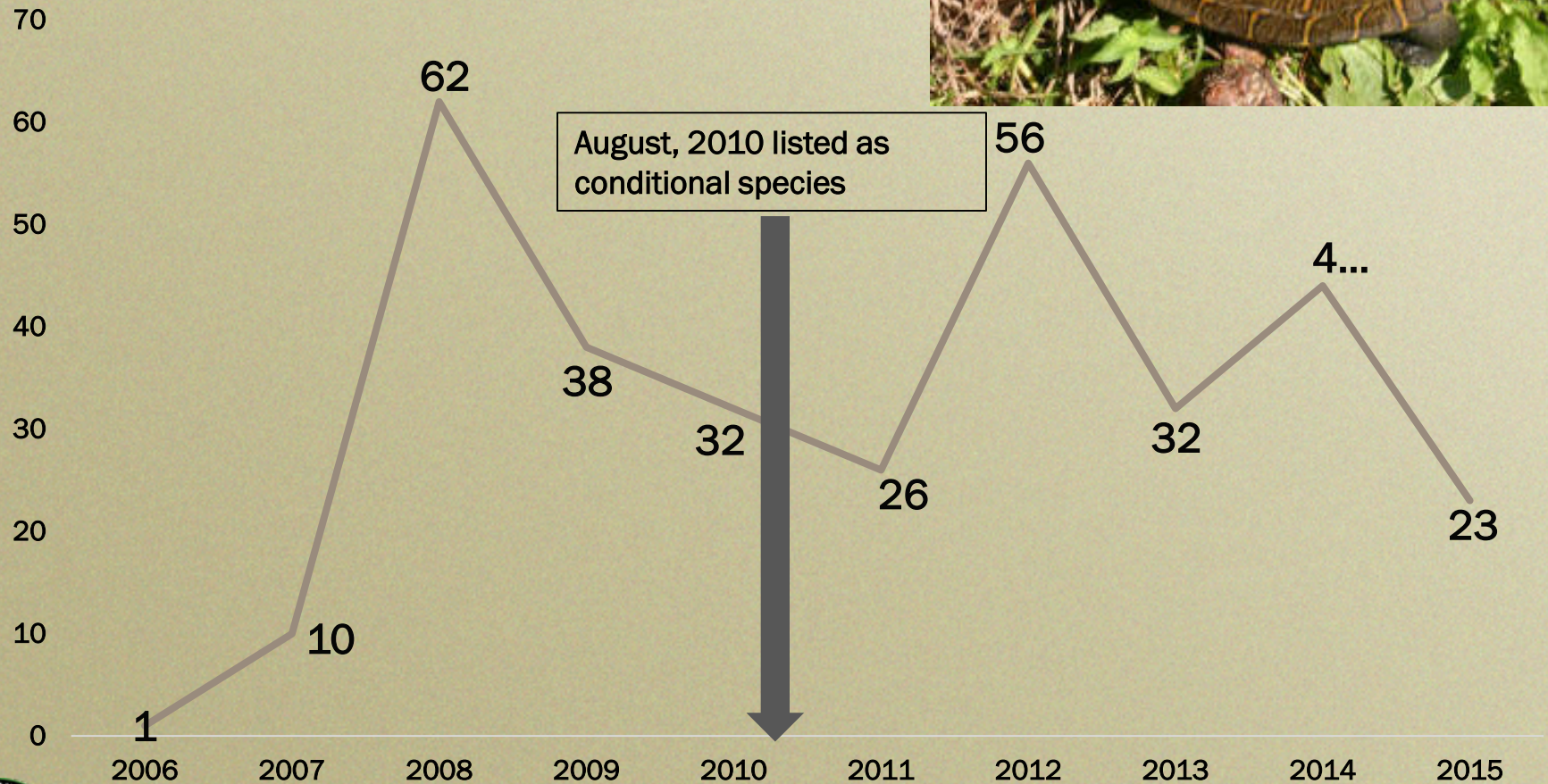
- Ability to accept exotic fish, keep them alive for the duration of the event, and have adopters willing to accept them





# Challenges

Conditional species especially  
Red-eared Sliders Surrendered





# Challenges

- Time required to facilitate adoptions outside of events
- Need for adopters

	Sighting	Pet Amnesty	Other/Info Inquiry	Total
2011 – 2012 FY	182	222	56	460
2012 – 2013 FY	390	131	243	764
2013 – 2014 FY	733	114	405	1,252
2014-2015 FY	440*	64*	153*	657*
Totals	1,745	531	857	3,133





# Future Direction

- Funding Challenges
- Online adoption database to help with day-to-day adoptions
- Exploring options with aquarists and hobbyist to better address aquatic species
- Addressing Out of State Inquiries



## Lion Head Rabbit

[Please Contact](#)

Lion head female. Born in Nov/Dec 2014. Friendly, likes being pet, doesn't bite/has never bitten anyone. Asking \$40 for her and she comes with a small cage. I also have other cages, bedding, water bottles and feeders for sale/trade.

Young | Female | Owner Offered

[Mar 18 - Daytona : New Smyrna Beach](#)



## Pet Timor Monitor Reptile

[\\$200](#)

We have for sale a Timor Monitor. Even though this is one of the more challenging of the monitors it's still very fun and exciting. This monitor will not grow so it does not get big like other monitors. If interested call me or text me at (786)302-1326 or pass by 2917 W. ...

Owner Offered

[Mar 17 - Tampa Bay : Tampa](#)





# What is our Role?

- If not us, then who? Suggestions Welcome...





# Thank You!

## Questions?

