

Shall the voters of the City and County of Denver adopt an ordinance concerning a prohibition of the sale of redbtail catfish (*Phractocephalus hemioliopterus*) beginning July 1st, 2029, prohibiting the sale or trade of any redbtail catfish imported with a country of origin outside of South America?

Legislative intent:

The people of the City of Denver find that

1. Redtail catfish bred outside of the US are often reproduced in incredibly poor and cruel conditions, unknowingly supported by aquarium enthusiasts of Colorado.
2. These conditions lead to inbreeding within the produced redbtail catfish, causing vastly reduced lifespans and significantly decreased quality of life. This can cause great upset to aquarium enthusiasts, whose fish can unexpectedly die well before their life expectancy.
3. Preventing the sale of inbred redbtail catfish leads to a healthier and more humane aquarium environment within the city.

Redtail catfish prohibitions:

- A. It shall be unlawful to trade, sell, distribute, or display any redbtail catfish imported into the city from a country of origin outside South America.
- B. The sale of a redbtail catfish will have been deemed to occur if the buyer takes physical possession of the catfish within the City of Denver; or if the seller is located in the City of Denver.

Definitions:

- A. The term “redtail catfish” means any living member of the species *Phractocephalus hemioliopterus*, of any age or size.
- B. For the purposes of this article “country of origin outside of South America” will refer to any country other than Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, French Guiana, Panama, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, or Uruguay.

Why is this proposal important?

To give an introduction, the redbtail catfish is a species of fish from the Amazon rainforest. The redbtail catfish frequently averages between 3 to 4 feet in length, and within the United States, it is imported in sizable quantities for the aquarium trade.

Unfortunately, the primary site of exportation is from a particular site in Indonesia. Redtail catfish are not easily bred in captivity, and this particular location is the only known place which has discovered a consistent process to reproduce redtails in order to sell them to the aquarium trade. Unfortunately, the redtails that are produced at this facility, and thus, imported into the US are severely inbred with horrendous health issues frequently leading to early death and a significantly reduced quality of life.

Blocking redbtail catfish importation from outside of South America would still allow fish stores and aquarium enthusiasts to enjoy the sale and husbandry of redbtail catfish, while preventing

the support of a facility thriving on the suffering of redbails. South America has large populations of wild redbail catfish, assessed as least concern in conservation status; allowing fish stores a minimal drop in revenue.

Thank you very much and I look very forward to hearing from you,
Holden

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