



## Responsible Pet Choices

Saturday, May 24 – Saturday, May 31


### Pre-Made Posts with Suggested Images:

#### Post 1: Impacts on Pets and Wildlife

 **Did you know some of the most harmful invasive species have been introduced through the pet trade?**

Goldfish, red-eared sliders, Burmese pythons and starlings— even zebra mussels on moss balls- have all been released into the wild, where they cause lasting damage to ecosystems.

Releasing a pet might feel like the kind thing to do, but most don't survive—and those that do can become invasive.

 **Responsible pet ownership means doing your research** and knowing what to do if you can no longer care for an animal.

There are always better options than letting it loose.





#DontLetItLoose #NISAM2025 #SmallActionsBigImpact


## Post 2: Don't Let It Loose - Rehome, Don't Release

 **Can't care for your pet anymore? You're not alone—and you have options.**

Releasing pets into the wild might seem kind, but it can harm both the animal and the environment.


Before you consider release, explore these responsible alternatives:

-  Rehome through a local rescue or shelter
-  Ask friends, family, or community groups
-  Consult your pet store—they may offer support or take returns
-  If no other option is available, speak to a veterinarian about humane euthanasia

 *Being a responsible pet owner means planning for their care—even when things change.*

#DontLetItLoose #NISAM2025 #SmallActionsBigImpact

### Post 3: Free Range Domestic Cats


 **Domestic cats are beloved companions—but when left to roam, they can have a devastating impact on native wildlife.**

Free-roaming cats in Canada kill an estimated **100–350 million birds annually**, more than any other human-related cause. They also threaten small mammals, reptiles, and even species at risk.

Most people who let their cats outside don't see the harm—but research shows that nearly **70% of cats hunt**, and their kills are concentrated in small areas, putting intense pressure on local ecosystems.

#### **You can help:**

- ✓ Keep your cats indoors or build a safe “catio”
- ✓ Try leash training and interactive indoor play
- ✓ Add bells or colourful collars to reduce successful hunts
- ✓ Spaying or neutering to prevent feral populations

 Protecting wildlife starts at home. Let's keep both cats and nature safe.

#DontLetItLoose #NISAM2025 #SmallActionsBigImpact

**[Image Suggestions:** Aquariums, turtles in tanks vs in ponds, goldfish, educational signage, songbirds, cats hunting, European rabbits, people with their pets, pets in cages.]