



“Snake release”

You have a pet brown tree snake that has gotten too big for you to take care of. You can't think of anyone who would like a pet snake and you think it would be happier in the wild anyway. You are thinking of letting it go in your wooded backyard. Should you release it?

- Why or why not?
No. The snake is not native to Pennsylvania and may disturb the natural ecosystem by out competing native species and becoming a pest.

- What effects can non-native species have on areas?
Non-native plants and animals can change the balance of an ecosystem by disrupting predator prey relationships, changing the food supply, and the characteristics of the ecosystem causing species to relocate to less disturbed locations.

- Why is it so difficult to control the transport of non-native species?
We often do not know how a species found its way from one continent to another. Because humans travel so frequently it is easy to carry invasive species to a new area without even knowing it.

- What law would you be violating if you release it?
The Lacey Act