

# TC Actions - Environmental Rules

The "environmental" rules for authors of any new tc actions are:

1. If you stealeth or borroweth any packet thou shalt be branching from the righteous path and thou shalt cloneth.  
For example if your action queues a packet to be processed later, or intentionally branches by redirecting a packet, then you need to clone the packet.
2. If you munge any packet thou shalt call `pskb_expand_head` in the case someone else is referencing the skb. After that you "own" the skb.
3. Dropping packets you don't own is a no-no. You simply return `TC_ACT_SHOT` to the caller and they will drop it.

The "environmental" rules for callers of actions (qdiscs etc) are:

1. Thou art responsible for freeing anything returned as being `TC_ACT_SHOT/STOLEN/QUEUED`. If none of `TC_ACT_SHOT/STOLEN/QUEUED` is returned, then all is great and you don't need to do anything.

Post on netdev if something is unclear.