

Thinking of buying an exotic animal?

Some exotic species can grow very large and some live for 50 years or more.

Can you commit to providing care for the animal throughout its life even after you are gone?

Did you know:

- Exotic animals often require specialist care from a veterinary surgeon and may require referral to a specialist which can be very expensive
- Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 a pet owner has a legal duty to ensure the welfare of his animal(s). A pet's welfare needs include:
 - A proper diet
 - Somewhere suitable to live
 - Any need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
 - Allowing animals to express normal behaviour
 - Protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease

If you decide to buy a reptile or amphibian we would always recommend the following:

- Consider contacting your local animal rescue/rehoming centre
- Research before you buy. Be sure you fully understand and appreciate the needs of the reptile or amphibian you are interested in, and that you can provide a suitable environment
- Seek advice from books, the internet and your local veterinary practice who may also be able to recommend a suitable expert for additional advice
- Ensure you know what facilities are necessary to provide a suitable environment for the animal – e.g., vivarium, temperature, humidity, light quality, etc.
- Ensure you buy from someone who specialises in the animal you are interested in
- Visit the animal you are intending to buy
- Check that the animal's accommodation is clean, it is supplied with the appropriate food and water, and that special equipment for maintaining the animal's environment (e.g., heat lamps or UV lights, etc) are working properly
- Ensure that all relevant paperwork is available for inspection when you visit. This could include any necessary permits such as CITES registration documents, Dangerous Wild Animals Licence or other documentation

- If any paperwork is unavailable and has to be sent on, obtain a written commitment as to when it will be delivered
- Ensure that the animal you are buying is healthy and free from signs of injury or disease

If you require advice, call:

RSPCA: 0300 1234 999

Pet Care Trust: 01234 273933

