

REPTILE CARE

B A S I C S



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Foreword

Getting to know a little more about reptiles and the basic care required would help the individual make decisions on its suitability as pets. This is often necessary, as reptiles are not really considered a common choice for a pet; therefore there is not a lot of supporting material easily available on them for the individual deciding to have one as a pet.. Get all the info you need here.

Reptile Care Basics

Chapter 1:

Reptile Care Basics

Synopsis

The following are some tips that can shed some light on the reptile care basics and the various elements to consider when acquiring one:

The Basics

Learning as much as possible about reptiles would allow the individual to be more informed on whether the choice made would be a suitable fit into his or her current lifestyle.

As there are commonly three basic categories of reptiles suitable as pets, the care given would very much centre on the distinct requirements of the corresponding category the pet falls into. These categories would include the handleable, semihandleable and the visual.

Identifying the type of reptile suitable as a pet should be the first step in a succession of step that should ideally follow of which the corresponding care is also clearly identified. This will then allow the individual to make all the necessary arrangements to provide for the reptile pet.

Checking on the reptile pet daily will help to keep the owner alert to any changes in behavior or eating patterns. These changes will help the individual to take the corresponding measures to ensure the pet is back at its optimal condition again.

Generally reptiles do require cool and moist surroundings; this should be accommodated as much as possible to ensure its comfort and longer lifespan. Failing which its skin could become dry and

other medical problems may arise and cause a host of other problems.

Chapter 2:

Research The Correct Temperature

Synopsis

The reptile pet would need to have ideal living conditions in order to survive comfortable and without the adequate knowledge on the varying temperatures required, it is more than likely the reptile will suffer the consequences which could range from mild to dangerous.

Do The Research

In the wild, these animals are able to regulate their body temperature by finding and using outside elements to assist them as they are not created with a system that regulates itself.

Therefore these reptiles would search for the ideal conditions and settle in comfortably until there is a need to move again should the body temperature or the surrounding temperature change. When it comes to the confines of the pet's enclosure, this may be rather hard to do.

For one the space available would be really very limited and for the other, there would not be enough "ideal" conditional changes due to the limited space. Therefore the reptile would not be able to move to the next best location when the need arises.

This will cause the reptile to react unfavorably and even eventually affect its overall health. Some owners are sensitive to this need and take the trouble to simulate as much as possible the requirements that would provide for suitable temperature changes, while other owners would fail to take this into consideration simply out of ignorance or sheer bad attitudes.

Some tanks or cages are positioned in such a way that there is a possible way to naturally adapt to the animals temperature needs and this is definitely something that the pet would welcome, as it would

have to be stress or experience any discomfort. However in most cases, this is almost always not part of the overall consideration made when keeping a reptile pet. Therefore serious consideration must be given to the regulatory adjustments the temperature setting would call for.

Chapter 3:

What Kind Of Environment Does The Reptile Need

Synopsis

Most reptiles need to be placed in suitable conditions where they can draw on the surroundings for the necessary heat for their bodies. This is because predominantly reptiles cannot generate body heat within the body, which is referred to as ectothermic.

The following are some of the elements that should be considered in the make up for the comfortable existence of the reptile pet:

What Environment

As reptiles need to seek heat from its surroundings, there is a need to provide a variety of various scenarios within the confines of the cage or tank to accommodate such important temperature changes. Depending on the type of reptile being reared as a pet, the owner would have to be responsible and knowledgeable of its needs and try to cater to them.

There are three main groups within the reptile category and these would include the lizard and snake group which would require a tropical climate environment and then there is the turtle and tortoise group which have protective shells on their back and these would require an environment that contains a lot of water and cool rocks to bask on, and the last group would be the one that is predominantly comprised of crocodiles and alligators and this group would prefer to be in an environment that is actually dominated by water as they tend to spend most of their time in it. Equipped with this information the potential pet owner would have to decide if it is feasible and possible to create such environments to accommodate the chosen reptile pet comfortably and safely.

Reptiles also need an environment where they can go into hibernation mode. This is necessary when they can no longer tolerate the surrounding temperature or environment. The pet owner would also have to provide an environment that is quiet and cool without distractions.

Chapter 4:

What Kind Of Food Does Your Reptile Need

Synopsis

As there are several different types of foods that usually make up the food varieties for the reptile pet, the owner would need to have a good basic knowledge of the pet reptile's preferences.

The following should serve as a good guideline for the reptile pet owner to have a more informed view of some of the foods that make ideal meals for the pet:

What Food

Typical reptiles such as snakes, tegus, lizards, monitors and crocodilians would be partial to a diet of meat. These could come in the form of mice, rats, birds' eggs, insects, fish and other smaller animals which would present much of a challenge to the reptile. Most of these would be eaten raw.

There are also reptiles such as iguanas and some tortoises that would lean towards being vegetarian. The foods that these reptiles would most like enjoy consuming would have to be chopped collard greens, romaine lettuce, chopped squash and bananas.

The other reptiles that make popular pets would be the bearded dragons and many aquatic turtles and these would ideally want to consume crickets, mealworms, earthworms, chopped veggies and romaine lettuce.

There are also reptiles that simply survive on eating leaves of which iguanas are a good example. The pet owner would be well advised to be able to provide fresh leaves for this type of iguana.

However before the individual decides to purchase any reptile as a pet, careful consideration should be given to the diet needs of the pet. If the individual is squeamish about feeding or handling certain types of foods, then the pet would ultimately suffer the consequences. Also as the pet grows in size the food intake or size would also have to be of a bigger kind and this could also be a problem when it comes to handling or sourcing for the food items.

Chapter 5:

Make Sure You Clean Up After Your Pet As Required

Synopsis

Keeping the pet clean and free of any unwanted residual stuff like feces or food rotting from not being consumed is very important, as will help to keep the pet's immediate environment from becoming a health hazard.

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Clean Up

It is absolute necessary to ensure the pet's confined area is always clean and fresh. Pets are almost like humans in certain preferences and keeping its immediate environment clean is something pets are keen on having some attention directed to.

There are several different ways to ensure this is possible, and these would include actually removing the pet temporarily to another secure location before and cleaning process commences, cleaning around the pet if it is not of the dangerous kind, or simply removing the under layer rack and cleaning it before replacing it again. However the last method is only possible if the cage or tank used has such as added facility for this purpose.

Initially cleaning may only present a small challenge, but as the reptile pet increases in size, this may prove to be almost an impossible task, especially if there is no help and the owner has to tackle the task alone.

All these points should be carefully weight when the purchase of the particular pet is being considered. A lot of pet owners fail to take this into account and end up frustrated and exhausted whenever the need to perform a cleaning task takes place.

There are also a lot of very specific ways and tools to use when cleaning after the reptile pet. These tools are usually recommended

when the purchase for the pet is being done. it would be a good idea to invest in the cleaning items as they would be specifically designed for the pet in question.

Chapter 6:

The Problems With Not Caring For Your Reptile Properly

Synopsis

After the initial excitement wears off, the owner often finds it difficult to cope with the various tasks involved in up keeping the pet in the way it is accustomed to. Here in lies the problem, as these pet owners will eventually become desperate and may seek to abandon the pet at the first sign of trouble.

Great Info

Others may simply neglect the pet and simply wait for it to expire and then simply get rid of it. All these problems are simply due to lack of taking the time and effort to research the particular animal being considered as a pet.

Therefore in the quest to ensure both parties enjoy a healthy and happy partnership, the owner has the obligation to ensure as much information as possible is learnt and understood before any actual physical purchase is done.

Other problems that arise would be the animal escaping its cage or tank and this can become a very dangerous situation indeed, especially if the pet in question is of the dangerous kind.

If the animal is not found immediately, outside specialized assistance may need to be engaged and this could cost the owner money and in some cases a jail sentence for endangering others.

Wrapping Up

Keeping pet reptiles as pets is becoming increasingly popular for the wrong reasons. Most purchases are done on a whim and in almost all cases the seller does not bother to ensure that the buyer is actually capable of keeping the pet in the conditions it requires to stay healthy and happy.

Almost always the object is just to make the sale and there is certainly no follow ups done once the reptile pet is sold.

This of course would bring about more problems than enjoyment for the pet and the new owner.

Hopefully this book has given you a of of help to take good care of your pet.