### We need your help

- Join the Animal Protection Agency a dynamic, effective and fast-moving campaign group, which is saving wildlife the world over. We aim to achieve real results but can only do this with your help.
- Consider donating regularly to our work. A standing order would help us greatly to plan ahead. All funds that we receive are used strategically and targeted where it matters to make a lasting difference for animals and the environment.
- Become an APA Volunteer. APA would not exist without dedicated volunteers who campaign and fundraise on our behalf. Please contact us for more information.

## **Standing Order** Name & address of your bank Postcode Sort code Please make payments and debit my/our Account number in accordance with the following details: Pay the Alliance and Leicester Commercial Bank, BBAM, Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside, G1R 0AA (72-00-05) for the account of APA (a/c no. 69435188) the sum of payment to be made on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of each month/year\* until further notice. \*delete as appropriate Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Victims of trade

It's a sad fact that most people who buy a reptile get more than they bargained for when they realise how time-consuming and expensive it is to try to replicate the animal's wild environment. As a



result, most reptiles die within a year in captivity. Others are neglected or discarded, causing untold misery, and many abandoned reptiles end up in overcrowded rescue shelters.

Meanwhile, the reptile trade is an expanding industry, so traders continue to import reptiles in large numbers while breeders flood the market with curiosity hybrids and albinos.

# Do you *still* want to keep a reptile?

Keeping a reptile is a *major* responsibility and could be a very long-term commitment. We hope that we have dissuaded you from getting a reptile. But if you know someone who won't listen and is determined to keep a captive reptile then contact APA for advice on offering a home to one that has been rescued.

Animal Protection Agency

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APA is part of ENDCAP – a European network of animal welfare organisations and wildlife professionals seeking an end to the keeping of wild animals in captivity for human entertainment. For more information, visit www.endcaptivity.org

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ENDCAP

# Before you reach for that reptile...



Looking after lizards, supervising snakes and tending to turtles and tortoises is extremely demanding – even for experts. If you, or anyone you know, may be thinking of buying a reptile, then here are our top 5 facts to be carefully considered:

Where on earth...?

It's almost impossible to tell whether a reptile has been bred in captivity or snatched from the wild. To make matters worse, traders sometimes lie about where their animals come from. The trade in wild-caught reptiles is driving species towards extinction – don't support it!



A little knowledge is a dangerous thing

A lot of websites, care-sheets and guidebooks contain misleading, and sometimes even dangerous, advice on reptile husbandry. Good quality information can be found in scientific

publications and a lot of reading up is needed in order to learn how to provide even basic care for ANY reptile species.

Captivity drives reptiles up

Reptiles, unlike mammals and birds, are not parentally educated. They are born expecting a life in the wild for which they have evolved to cope and find many aspects of captivity highly stressful. This stress can lead to disease, and very often the death of the animal.

Life in a tank? No thanks!
Reptiles should NEVER be kept or confined in glass tanks. In the wild, reptiles never encounter transparent boundaries and don't adapt to cope with them. Repeatedly



trying to escape is a sure sign of stress and can even lead to facial injuries. Captive reptiles need carefully designed, spacious and naturalistic enclosures at the very least.

# Reptiles carry a government health warning

Most reptiles carry salmonella bacteria. Following the deaths of two babies in the UK from contact with salmonella-infected reptiles, the Department of Health issued a warning that children under five, pregnant women, the elderly and anyone who is immuno-compromised should avoid all contact with reptiles.

#### Remember the reptile risks!

Salmonella bacteria from reptiles are significantly different to salmonella found in foods and are much more harmful to humans. And because reptiles regularly excrete their bacteria, and it spreads easily, you don't even have to touch the reptile to get sick! Contact the Department of Health for guidance and make sure you follow it!

# Yes, I want to join the Animal Protection Agency and help stop the trade in wild animals as pets

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Title First name
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