



Taking your reptile home

Before you take your reptile home

Before you take your reptile home there are a few things we'd recommend you do.

- Before you collect your reptile it's important that you have a suitable environment waiting for them. We'd recommend that you get this set up and run it for at least a week to make sure you're comfortable with how everything works and give a chance to iron out any problems that may crop up.
- The temperatures in the vivarium should have been constantly maintained for at least three days prior to the reptile being brought home.
- Find your nearest exotics specialist vet to register with, to ensure you have quick and easy access to any specialist treatment you may need.

Taking your reptile home

It will depend on the species of reptile you are rehoming as to the best method to transport them home.

- Young lizards, snakes and tortoises can be transported in ventilated plastic containers with soft, absorbent paper on the base and a securely-fitted lid.
- Adult lizards and tortoises can be transported in larger ventilated plastic containers such as a RUB (Really Useful Storage Boxes) with small holes drilled in the sides to increase ventilation; soft, absorbent paper or newspaper on the base; and a securely-fitted lid.
- Large adult lizards and adult snakes can be transported in a securely-tied cloth bag, within a well-ventilated plastic tub, such as a RUB, to prevent injury. Individual transportation is best to reduce the risk of

injury. Bags should not be laid on top of each other as sometimes one animal can bite or injure another through the bag. Some lizard species (e.g. chameleons) should be provided with something to perch on.

During transportation your animal should be kept out of draughts.

In colder weather or if travelling longer distances, a small heat source (e.g. hot water bottle or microwaveable heat pad) may be used so that the animal does not become too cold in transit, although ensure that they don't overheat. The heat source can be wrapped in a towel and placed outside but adjacent to one end of the transport box. Never place a heat source directly into the transport container as there is a risk of thermal burns should your reptile sit on/around the heat source, and they may not move away even if it becomes too hot.

Travelling time should always be kept to a minimum to reduce stress for your reptile.





Settling in

When the day comes to take your reptile home, we recommend that they complete any remaining days of their 90-day quarantine period in your home. Part of this quarantine period will have already been undertaken at the rescue centre – check with the rescue centre how much longer they need to be in quarantine. This is to avoid spreading of any diseases to other reptiles in your home and to ensure they are in good health.

Snakes:

Place the plastic container or bag carefully inside the vivarium and open it carefully to allow your snake to emerge. Secure the vivarium, turn off the room lights

and close the door to the room where the vivarium is kept to reduce stress. Leave the snake alone until the following morning when you can check back on them. It's best not to handle your snake unnecessarily for the first week but instead allow them time to become used to their new environment.

Lizards and tortoises:

Carefully place your animal inside the enclosure. Provide them with some food and water, secure the enclosure and then leave them alone until the following day to reduce any stress. It's best not to handle them unnecessarily for the first week but instead allow them time to become used to their new environment.