

# Draft Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Reptiles

## For public comment

You are invited to provide comments on the *Draft Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Reptiles* (the Code). The Code was prepared by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW) in partnership with an advisory group consisting of herpetologists, exhibitors and representatives of the major reptile societies.

The Code establishes a set of minimum care requirements that will help to ensure the welfare of reptiles held in captivity. These requirements will apply to anyone who holds a licence to keep reptiles under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

You may comment on any part of the Code. You may choose to answer the questionnaire overleaf and/or provide a separate submission. **Please ensure you complete the personal details section of the questionnaire to assist us in identifying duplicate and spam submissions.** Your personal details will not be used for any other purpose and will be kept strictly confidential. Comments on the code will be reported anonymously and will not identify the submitter's name or contact details.

Comments may be submitted by:

- email to [reptilecode.comments@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:reptilecode.comments@environment.nsw.gov.au), or
- post to:  
Major Programs Unit  
PO BOX 1967  
Hurstville BC NSW 1481, or
- fax to 9585 6666.

Submissions close on **18 December 2009**.

Department of  
**Environment, Climate Change and Water** NSW



## Questionnaire on the Draft Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Reptiles

The Department is particularly seeking comments on the following questions:

<p>1. Are you now keeping or have you recently kept reptiles? If yes, for approximately how many years? Which species have you mostly kept?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>
<p>2. Do you think that the Code describes the basic welfare needs of captive reptiles?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>
<p>3. If you are currently a reptile keeper, does the Code generally reflect the way you keep your reptiles?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>
<p>4. If you are currently a reptile keeper, do you keep your reptiles in enclosures that are about the same size as those specified in the Code (Tables 1-3)? If no, please state whether your enclosures are bigger or smaller than those specified.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>
<p>5. In your experience, does the Code reflect the way most other people care for their reptiles?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>

<p>6. Do you think it would be simple to assess whether an enclosure complied with the Code?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No   <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>
<p>7. The Code is not intended to be a complete guide to keeping every species of native reptile, but contains general statements which apply to most species. Do you think the Code provides keepers with useful information about their obligations?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No   <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>
<p>8. Standard 3.1.1.1. states that 'Enclosures must provide sufficient space to enable reptiles to move about freely, express a range of natural behaviours and to minimise undue conflict with cage-mates'.</p> <p>In your view, do the enclosure sizes specified in Tables 1 and 2 meet this Standard? If no, please provide more information.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No   <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>
<p>9. Standard 3.4.1.1. states that 'Enclosures must have sufficient water volume to enable all turtles to simultaneously lie submerged and swim freely'.</p> <p>In your view, do the enclosure sizes specified in Table 3 meet this Standard? If no, please provide more information.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No   <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>

<p>10. In section 3.1.1.2 (Enclosure sizes), it has been left to keepers to decide how much climbing space should be given to reptiles that normally climb.</p> <p>Should the Code include a range of suitable enclosure heights for arboreal species? If yes, please provide examples below.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
<p>11. Do you think that the provision of an absorbent substrate is necessary for reptiles housed indoors?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
<p>12. Do you think that all reptiles must have a shelter in which they can hide?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
<p>13. Are there any quarantine guidelines (Section 8) that should be mandatory?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
<p>14. Have species been placed in the appropriate classes and correctly labelled as climbing, burrowing, sand-swimming or semi-aquatic/aquatic (Appendix A)?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know

15. Are there expressions or jargon that could confuse or mislead people?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know

**Personal details**

Name: .....

Address: .....  
.....  
.....

Phone: .....

Email: .....

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