

S00073 – Dave Cooney

I would suggest keeping all native reptiles on valid licences from the R1 to the R5 categories because I've had to look after too many ill and/or injured reptiles which have been illegally collected from the wild populations, as a reptile rescuer with the Wildlife Arc rescue group (Central coast, NSW) since 2005. I have a photo album full of pictures of reptiles that have been rescued or caught, a lot of them belong in different areas from all over Australia.

Think of a wild Eastern carpet python that has lived in the bush all it's life and is protected by law.. then think of an irresponsible individual catching that python and locking it in a cage for the rest of it's life. Imagine the amount of stress that animal would go through if it's lucky enough to survive at all.