

S00083 – Dylan Surace

To whom it may concern, i have had my personal reptile and amphibian keepers licences for a few years now and have been around reptiles from birth, as many of my family members and friends have always had them and bred them. over the years of being around reptiles and amphibians and caring for them, i have seen and heard many things about keepers and breeders and such. the new proposed requirements ect. while are all suitable and reasonable are not really a good thing at all. the fact that anyone that claims to have the adequate knowledge and or facilities or even just claims to meet the requirements can own the now "code" labelled reptiles is ridiculous. the fact that for the most part you have always had to have the required reptile licences to own these animals was preventing the random persons who have no idea how to care for these animals and will never ever care for them properly from owning them for the wrong reasons. if this in particular is passed then it will allow just about anyone to purchase and own a native reptile in this category without any ways to regulate or keep track of them. it pretty much is allowing what was previously illegal native reptile trade and breeding and that is not fair to the people who have always done things the right way following all requirements and all laws word for word. it is also completely unethical as i know for a fact the amount of people who want these animals but refuse to purchase a licence because they are "above the laws and regulators" for some reason and just want the animals for the wrong reasons and will never care for them properly at all. also doing this will never allow the tracking of numbers of animals and species in captivity and once it happens there is no going back because it will never be possible to track them down. i have much more to say on this topic and if asked i will happily explain my views and the views of the thousands i know in the reptile community further.

in the discussion paper i also notice a "note" that states "A dealer licence issued by OEH is required to buy and sell reptiles as a business". im not sure if this means the average licence holder that sells or trades a few reptiles every year or if it is a licence holder that sells or trades any reptiles at all even if it is one single animal but either way i think this is a great idea that should have happened many many years ago. regulating breeders and sales in the same way some professional dog breeders are regulated for example, would stop these random money grabbing keepers who breed the animals just for the money and then when they realize doing it that way makes it much harder for them to sell their animals they either dispose of them or sell them off illegally which i have seen and heard of many many times over the last 20 years (allowing the owning of the reptiles according to the "code" also makes this drastically worse). making anyone that sells any reptiles at all require an additional dealer licence will stop most of if not all of this and will force out all the keepers involved in the selling and trading of these animals for the wrong reasons because if they are actually passionate about this and care for the animals they will have no issue at all with this requirement. although i do not agree with making the so called "dealers" pay fees and acquire licences the same as a sort of pet store would as was stated earlier this year in proposed changes, it should be set in such a way that these persons would have to acquire an additional licence at the same fee amount as their regular licence or a very slightly higher fee so they would be paying 2 fees instead of one to allow these persons to trade in these animals would be a great idea also making them register as a small business to allow this to be possible would be a

very good idea. this would allow the appropriate tracking of species numbers in captivity and any trade in these animals at all helping both the hobby and the environmental factors in the country. again it would stop most of these illegitimate so called "breeders" from buying and selling these animals for the complete wrong reasons without any care for the animals and just for the money grab. in closing the proposed licence changes in classes and codes ect. are a ridiculously bad idea because it just makes the licencing a complete joke all together and its unfair to anyone that has been paying the fees for the last 20 years and allow what would be considered, under the current licencing laws to be illegal trade, actually possible and legal so do not do this, please.

The change of requiring anyone selling any of these animals to need the appropriate/additional licencing to do so would be a great thing and would help the OEH, the environment in general and anyone involved in the hobby at all in countless ways, ensuring the adequate care and longevity of the animals in captivity and their species. it would also make any situation where the animals whereabouts or history or a breeders/sellers activities that needed to be tracked or looked at would be a million times easier to track and follow up on.

Regards.

Dylan Surace.

Although i know it is highly unlikely i will get any response to my message, i would love to expand on my opinions and the opinions of the reptile and amphibian community that i am a part of if required or if it would be helpful at all. thank you for allowing me to express my opinions and views and for giving the community a say.