

My concerns are

1) Class 1 reptiles and the ease of getting a licence - now its going to be even easier with no licence required. As the carer of many eastern water dragons, bearded dragons and long neck turtles that have been given to me over the years either through rescue groups or individuals handing them in, there is often a lack of even the most basic knowledge when caring for these animals. Many animals I have had have shell rot, metabolic bone disease to name a couple, as they have not been housed correctly or fed the right diet. I think there should be, at least, a multiple choice questionnaire done on the internet or similar before people have access to these animals. There seems to be a perception that these animals are easy to look after. They are only if you know at least the basics.

2) The housing of venomous snakes being in locked cages in a locked room. I think that a locked cage is enough. Having these animals in locked rooms means that viewing them is limited to a visit to this room. If they were able to be kept out in a lounge room for example, they would get used to movement and the keeper would be able to monitor and view them for longer periods assisting the animal to be more comfortable around movement and the keeper would know the animal more. I also believe that they should be allowed to be housed outside where the climate permits even if only seasonal, in suitable, lockable enclosures or pits. This would lift their spirits and enrich their lives.

I would appreciate consideration being given to these points.