

S00122 – Stuart Johnson

Re: Capture Relocation.

I am a licence holder for reptile catch and relocation, along as a full time reptile specialist/zookeeper of over 15 years experience.

Currently under licence conditions reptiles can only be held in possession for 3 days before release or surrendered over to wildlife carers.

For myself and a number of other reptile specialists that hold this licence there is many years of knowledge and experience in not only handling but care and husbandry. In the case of sick and injured reptiles, that experience is often far greater than that of wildlife carers.

In some cases this can lead to poor outcomes in treatment recovery, an animal being unnecessarily euthanized, and unnecessary double handling.

If licenced reptile handlers that have the knowledge and experience to meet the requirements were able to hold animals that required ongoing care for either rehabilitation or for re homing in captivity, it could greatly reduce pressure on many areas within the current system along with better outcomes for the animals concerned.