



Draft Code of Practice for Community Reptile Shows & Privately-run Reptile Expos

Formulated by the HCN Committee on behalf of our members and community.

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1. Preface

This Code has been established by the Herpetocultural Cooperative NSW as the Standard practice for Reptile Shows and Reptile Expos held in NSW.

The trade of reptiles in NSW is restricted to those legally held under NSW Animal Keeper License (AKL) and Animal Dealer – Reptile License (ADR) legislated by the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

If the organisers of an Event wish to allow ADR Licensees to attend and trade then ADR Licensees must first obtain prior approval from the OEH Wildlife Team. The ADR approval is in the form of a Registration Certificate issued to the ADR with the premises address and validity date of the Event. Without this separate Registration Certificate, a licensed ADR is not authorised to trade away from their ADR licensed premises.

AKL Licensees are permitted to trade at this Event under section one of the General Conditions of a NSW Native Animal Keeper License, part 2 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, which authorises native animals to be removed from the nominated premises without the Chief Executive's prior consent only for the purposes of veterinary treatment; for disposal/sale; or for a period not exceeding 72 hours for the purpose of attendance at a meeting, or for participation in a competitive show (such meetings or competitive shows, must not include public display or exhibit that would be in conflict with the provisions of the Exhibited Animals Protection Act, 1986.(EAPA)

The EAP Act excludes animals displayed solely for sale and the EAP Regulation Clause 5 (see below) exempts a range of activities including:

- Competitive displays of households pets
- Displays authorised by a scientific license under the NPWS Act 1974
- Displays in accordance with the Animal Research Act 1985
- Animals kept in a pet shop for display and not for sale
- Displays of farm animals at agricultural show and for promoting agricultural products
- **Animals displayed at meetings of animal keeping associations**
- Animals displayed by students for a single 'show-and-tell' activity

EAPA Section 5 defines:

Exhibit, in relation to an animal, means the display, or the keeping for display, of the animal for educational, cultural, scientific, entertainment, or other prescribed purposes, **but does not include** the display, an animal solely:

(a) In connection with the sale or intended sale of the animal

2. Introduction:

The HCN has identified two separate Event classifications:

2.1 Reptile Show

A Reptile Show is an event organised by a not-for-profit reptile/frog keeping Association. Events are held to educate, for promotion of the hobby and husbandry, to gain the support of sponsors, provide a venue for guest speakers, and as an opportunity to trade animals from one hobbyist to another, and between hobbyist and dealer (FDL). These events should not be subject to any OEH licensing fees. Notification of all event details including a floor plan (see 4.1), all vendor numbers allocated including breeders' names, licence number of the AKL and ADR licensees who will be trading, are still required to be provided to OEH prior to the event.

2.2 Reptile Expo

A Reptile Expo is an event organised by any private individual for the primary purpose of making a profit. It may include, but is not required to include, any educational material of benefit to the reptile keeping community. This event is subject to OEH licensing fees, and an application for event approval needs to be lodged with OEH prior to the event. All event details including a floor plan (see 4.1), all vendor/seller details including breeders' names, licence numbers of the AKL and ADR licensees who will be trading, must be provided at the time of application.

3. Definitions:

In this Code:

- **ADR** – Animal Dealer – Reptile License
- **AKL** – Animal Keeper License
- **Animal keeping Association:** includes not-for-profit Society, Club or Group
- **DPI** – NSW Department of Primary Industries
- **Event** – refers to either a Reptile Show or Reptile Expo
- **OEH** – NSW Office of Environment & Heritage
- **Sales container** – refers to the secure ‘see-through’ container with appropriate ventilation, shelter and water (if necessary) used as the temporary transport vessel for the purpose of selling an animal
- **Steward** – person authorised by the organisers to act on behalf of and as their representative
- **Vendor** – any seller at this Event

4. Conditions of Code of Practice

The conditions of this Code of Practice are as follows:

4.1 General Requirements

- 4.1.1 A copy of this code must be prominently displayed at the venue of the Event, and a copy must be provided to all sellers upon application.
- 4.1.2 A payment of a Sellers fee is agreement to all conditions and rules set by the organisers and as set out in this Code of Practice.
- 4.1.3 All care and precaution should be taken in the event of extreme weather conditions.
- 4.1.4 All events must be covered by an appropriate public liability insurance policy.
- 4.1.5 All participants are responsible in full, for damage caused by them or related parties, to any venue or neighbouring facilities.
- 4.1.6 A start and finish time will be clearly advertised. All displayers/vendors will be advised of set up times.
- 4.1.7 A floor plan of the venue must be provided and include:
 - The designated areas of reptile trade, licensed exhibitors, and retail stores.
 - The vendor number and their table location in the trade area.
- 4.1.8 Vendor Register must be kept by the organiser. This must include:
 - Vendors number.
 - Vendors name and phone number or email address.

- AKL/ADR license number.
 - List of animals or items for sale on the day.
- 4.1.9 All animals, out of cages, are not permitted, with the exception of Service/Guide Dogs and invited zoo/animal handlers (see 4.2?)
- 4.1.10 The organisers reserve the right to refuse entry and/or remove any person from the premises for any reason.
- 4.1.11 All organisers, including Stewards, must be clearly identifiable either by clothing or badges/identification.

4.2 Mobile Exhibitors

Mobile Exhibitors are licensed by the DPI. Any exhibitors included in the Event must be currently licensed by DPI and follow all conditions as required by their DPI License. The animals used by the Licensed Exhibitor must be held under that DPI License and not under any OEH wildlife license.

A Certificate of Currency for public liability insurance is also required.

- 4.2.1 All display animals must be in their clean, escape proof enclosures before the commencement of the event.

4.3 Health and Safety

The venue/Event must have a clearly labelled First Aid Area and an appointed Safety Officer.

(For additional safety conditions see Sale of Venomous Reptiles – 5.4)

4.4 Animal Welfare

- 4.4.1 The organisers and/or the Stewards in attendance shall take all reasonable care to protect the wellbeing of the reptiles at the Event, but shall not be held responsible for escape, injury, death or physical condition of the reptile.
- 4.4.2 Reptiles for sale will be inspected by the onsite Veterinarian and/or Steward at the stall prior to the Event opening. If it is deemed that an animal is showing signs of disease, stress or injury, is sick, or is unfit for sale the animal is to be immediately removed from the venue.
- 4.4.3 While all reasonable steps are taken by the organisers to prevent communicable diseases we can at no time guarantee there will be no risk

of infection. It is incumbent upon breeders and other participants to follow the below guidelines in order to minimise the spread of disease:

- What diseases can be transmitted between reptiles at an Event?
 - Diseases include IBD (Inclusion Body Disease). OPMV (*Ophidian paramyxovirus*), Sunshine Virus, other viral and bacterial diseases (e.g. *salmonella spp*) and mites.
- How are diseases transmitted?
 - Contact (reptile to reptile, substrate, cage furniture), body fluids (saliva, air borne droplets, faeces, blood).
 - Mites.
- How can we minimise this spread?
 - Limit the number of people handling reptiles - it is strongly discouraged to allow any other person other than yourself to handle your reptile during this event. All reptiles MUST remain in their sealed containers.
 - Prevent reptile to reptile contact.
 - Ensure 'best practice' quarantine and hygiene protocols are in place.

4.4.4 If an owner, Veterinarian or Steward feel a closer inspection is warranted, the Steward must be notified before the opening of the Event. The onsite Veterinarian/Steward must take the reptile to a separate 'Quarantined Space' for closer inspection. Only the vendor, Vet or Steward may handle the reptile. Upon completion of the inspection F10 spray and hand sanitiser must be used before re-joining the event. This space must not be accessed at any other time during the event other than for an inspection.

5. Trade

The trade of reptiles in NSW is restricted to those legally held under NSW Animal Keeper License (AKL) and Animal Dealer – Reptile License (ADR) legislated by the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

5.1 Permitted Trade

- 5.1.1 Trade of fauna is permitted between holders of a current NSW OEH Native Animal Keepers License (AKL to AKL) and subject to the conditions stated on that license.
- 5.1.2 Trade is permitted by approved interstate license holders who have obtained Import and Export licenses in both NSW and their State of residence.

- 5.1.3 Trade of fauna is permitted between holders of a current OEH Animal Dealer – Reptile License Expo Registration Certificate and subject to the conditions stated on that license. (ADR to AKL).
- 5.1.4 For ADR Licensees trade of fauna is restricted to those reptile species permitted to be traded by an Animal Dealer.
- 5.1.5 For AKL and approved interstate licensees, trade of fauna is restricted to Coded, R1 and R2, non-venomous species. For venomous species sales and purchase the appropriate R3 – R5 License must be held (see 5.4)
- 5.1.6 No commercial signage or banners are permitted for sellers who are holders of AKL or for those selling Coded species.
- 5.1.7 Both AKL and ADR licensees are required to display their vendor number in plain view.
- 5.1.8 Illegal trade of fauna involving an unlicensed purchaser or seller within the venue or on the grounds surrounding the venue will be referred to OEH, or the Police.

5.2 Pre-Trading

- 5.2.1 All breeders and animals being sold must be in the building, with all animals secured within their containers prior to the designated set-up time as set down by the organisers. Doors will be closed at this time, after which entry will be refused until the Event opens.
- 5.2.2 Tables are not to be set up after the Event opens.
- 5.2.3 Setting up must be one owner per table.
- 5.2.4 All animals for trade must be in their clean escape proof sales containers before the commencement of the Event.
- 5.2.5 Animals are not to be removed from their sales containers during the Event, with the exception of a request by the onsite Veterinarian or Steward for health and welfare reasons.
- 5.2.6 All animals must be correctly identified.
- 5.2.7 Animals within sales containers must not be visually overcrowded. Any deemed to be overcrowded can be asked by the Steward to be removed immediately.

5.3 Trading

- 5.3.1 Reptiles shall stay under the supervision of the vendor, staff, or Steward until purchased by a license holder.
- 5.3.2 All impulse buying is to be discouraged.

- 5.3.3 All vendors and purchasers must exchange license details at the point of sale. Details exchanged must be as stated on their licenses.
- 5.3.4 All vendors will provide appropriate securable temporary transport containers, with ventilation, for the purchased animal/s.
- 5.3.5 Once the sale is complete the responsibility for supervision of the animal transfers to the purchaser.

5.4 Trading of Venomous Reptiles

The following protocol **MUST** be adhered to if the event is to include the sale of venomous reptiles

- 5.4.1 A separate room (away from the general public area) will be established for the use of venomous snake sales.
- 5.4.2 St Johns Ambulance (or other Certified First Aid) will be in attendance whilst the venomous room is operational. In addition, there will be a minimum of 6 x elasticised compression bandages in the room at all times, in the event of a snake bite emergency.
- 5.4.3 Also in attendance, MUST be one Steward who holds an R5 AKL stationed on the door to the room checking all persons entering and exiting the room. In addition, one Steward who holds an R5 AKL MUST be present inside the room to ensure no reptiles are removed from their secured sales containers.
- 5.4.4 All venomous snakes coming into and out of the room MUST enter prior to the start of the Event. They **CANNOT** leave before the finish of the Event.
- 5.4.5 All animals will be housed in ventilated sealed sales containers, which MUST be securely cable-tied on four points to prevent the escape of the snake.
- 5.4.6 No venomous snakes will be permitted to be removed from the locked sales container at any time.
- 5.4.7 All persons entering the room MUST provide a copy of their R3-R5 AKL as well as photo identification to ensure only advanced reptile license holders enter the room and to prevent the swapping of copies of AKL's.
- 5.4.8 No other person will be permitted to enter the room without the documents stated above (see 5.4.7) which the exception of First Aid Officers in an emergency.
- 5.4.9 Purchasers of venomous snakes can only collect all venomous animals after the close of the Event.