

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN SHOWS

### SHOW PROMOTERS

- Promoters must carry sufficient liability insurance.
- Promoters must provide event rules to vendors in advance.
  - Rules should be prominently posted at the event.
  - Vendors are required to comply with relevant local, state and federal regulations. pertaining to interstate movement, possession and sale of animals in their possession.
  - Promoter must enforce rules at the event. Non-compliance may result in permanent expulsion from the event and future events.
- Veterinary services must be available throughout the event.
  - On-site veterinarians are strongly recommended.
  - In lieu of on-site veterinarian, show promoter must arrange the services of at least one veterinarian in the proximity of the event who can inspect and issue any paperwork needed for animals transported across state lines or internationally.
  - Names and addresses of local veterinarians should be provided to all vendors with animals that will be transported across state lines or internationally.



**Expos should consider having a reptile vet in attendance.**

Photo: Bill Love/Blue Chameleon Ventures

- Vendor application form should include a description of their refund policy.
- Temperature in the display rooms should be appropriate for reptiles and amphibians throughout the show, including after show hours.
- Security must be provided throughout the event to
  - prevent unauthorized access to the vendor exhibits;
  - prevent theft of animals and merchandise;
  - prevent entry of animals other than from authorized vendors.

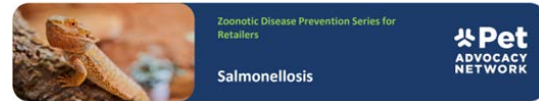


**Security should monitor all entrances as well as having a presence on the floor.**

Photos: Bill Love/ Blue Chameleon Ventures

- Information and health notices on the prevention of *Salmonella* transmission should be available.

□ Click [here](#) for Pet Advocacy Network's *Salmonella* prevention information.



- Emergency response protocols and contacts for injury must be provided to all vendors prior to the show; protocols should be available throughout the show. For shows with venomous species, protocols should include location of anti-venom.

- Red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) should not be sold except for legal aberrant color pattern or morphologically aberrant specimens (albino, pastel, two-headed, Rio Grande).



**Pastel red-eared sliders. Color morphs are acceptable at expos, but normal red-ears should not be sold.**

- Appropriate government agencies and herp conservation non-profits should be invited to help educate the industry and visitors.

**Displays by government agencies and conservation groups are a resource for show visitors and encourage relationships between the reptile industry and conservation advocates.**

Photo: Bill Love/ Blue Chameleon Ventures



## VENDORS

- Vendors should provide customers alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Vendors must conduct health inspection to ensure that animals transported to and from the show are free of ectoparasites and exhibit no clinical signs of illness.



**Visitors who handle animals should be encouraged to use hand sanitizer.**



**A variety of treatments to treat common ectoparasites on display.**

Photos: Bill Love/ Blue Chameleon Ventures

- Vendors should maintain required documentation for regulated species on display or for sale in the jurisdiction of the show.
  - Documentation need not be on display (unless required by law) but should be accessible in the event of inspection by law enforcement.
- When requested, vendors should provide (or suggest sources of) care information (e.g., maximum size, diet, life span, housing).
  - Verbal information may be provided, including references to printed or electronic sources.
  - Alternatively care sheets may be provided for selected species or groups of species at the vendor's discretion.



**Vendors have several options for providing care information.**

Photos: Bill Love/ Blue Chameleon Ventures

- All reptiles and amphibians should be kept in a secure container at all times except when being handled by the vendor, or by a customer with the vendor present.
  - Containers should be clean, adequately ventilated, and of suitable size for the species and number of animals.
  - Multiple species should not be housed in the same enclosure.
  - Sensitive animals should be provided with the appropriate temperature and humidity environment.
  - Containers should be cleaned and sanitized in a timely manner throughout the show.
  - Animals should be able to turn 360° in their enclosure.



**Security options, providing adequate space for the size of the animals on display.**

Photo: Bill Love/ Blue Chameleon Ventures

- All animals should be handled in a manner to avoid negative public perception and to minimize opportunities for injury, e.g., snakes should not be perched around the head or neck.



**Children at expos should be supervised when handling animals. Vendors should assist customers who wish to handle larger reptiles.**

Photo: Bill Love/ Blue Chameleon Ventures

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Vendors may refuse service or sales to anyone at their own discretion.
- Vendors should provide a receipt with all purchases that provides contact information and return policy.
- Vendors should exercise discretion when selling or transferring animals to minors, unless the customer is accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Refer to "VENOMOUS SPECIES" for additional customer service recommendations.

## FEEDER ANIMALS

- No live warm-blooded animals (i.e., mice, rats, other rodents, rabbits, birds, etc.) other than feeder animals and assistance dogs should be allowed in the event.
- Warm-blooded feeder animals must be separated from predatory reptiles and amphibians.
- No live rodents should be fed to reptiles during show hours.
- Live rodents should be healthy and kept in sanitary conditions (clean bedding, fresh water, feed) throughout the show.
- Frozen rodents should be clean and free of blood, urine, and fecal stains.



**Feeder Rodents should be in a separate room from reptiles and kept in sanitary conditions.**

**Photo: Bill Love/ Blue Chameleon Ventures**



## VENOMOUS SPECIES

*Note: This section applies to medically significant venomous species of reptiles and invertebrates (arachnids, scorpions) that can cause serious medical complications or death. For a list of reptiles that are technically venomous but NOT CONSIDERED MEDICALLY SIGNIFICANT, [click here](#).*

- Vendors with venomous species must sign a liability waiver with the show promoter.
- Sales/Transfers
  - No venomous animals, including rear-fanged animals, should be sold or otherwise transferred to anyone under 18 years of age unless accompanied by a parent. The animals must be purchased by a qualified parent or guardian.
  - Sales of venomous animals should be in a separate room or location within the event site.
  - Customers purchasing venomous species must sign a liability waiver provided by the vendor.
  - Customers must show proof of all required permits for possession of the venomous reptile for their resident state prior to purchase.
- Venomous species must be labeled with common name, scientific name, and sex prior to the opening of the show.
- Security
  - Venomous species must be transported and maintained in secure containers; animals must remain in their transport containers throughout the show, including animals sold.
    - Cloth bags are not acceptable for transport of or holding venomous species.
  - Containers holding venomous species must be placed within a secure display apparatus as a second level of security to prevent contact by the public.
  - Containers holding venomous species, including rear-fanged animals, must be prominently marked to distinguish from non-venomous species containers.
  - Venomous species must be attended by the vendor or a vendor-appointed substitute at all times.
  - Venomous reptiles for sale should be housed individually.
  - Venomous species sold at the show must remain at the vendor exhibit until the customer departs from the event.
- Invertebrates (Arachnids and Scorpions)
  - Some species of scorpions and spiders have medically significant venom. For a list of dangerous invertebrates, [click here](#).