

the don'ts

don't scare people with your reptiles, especially if you own snakes. Act responsibly.

don't handle all herps too often; many, such as day geckos, are better as display animals than pets that you should handle.

don't neglect your pets. Give them the attention they deserve by performing routine maintenance chores, such as cleaning their enclosures, feeding the proper foods, etc.

don't release your reptile into the wild.



don't keep animals illegally.

don't keep more herps than you can reasonably care for. Avoid "collector-itis" if keeping many reptiles will mean they are neglected.

don't purchase sick animals thinking you will take them home and make them well. Start out with healthy animals.

don't handle reptiles, especially snakes, too soon after they have fed.

don't over feed your reptile.



the do's and don'ts of herp-keeping



the do's

do research any animal you're thinking about buying, to be sure you can care for it properly.

do have the enclosure set up before bringing a new herp home.

do provide hiding places for your herps; this makes them feel secure.



do be sure your herp enclosures are escape-proof.

do pay attention to the cleanliness of your reptile enclosures, especially aquatic turtle tanks.

do provide UVB lighting for reptiles that are active in the daytime.

do try and find a reptile-knowledgeable veterinarian in your area.

do consider joining a herp club or attending a herp expo. They're fun!

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