



National Centre for Reptile Welfare
Animal Intake Policy 2018

Section A - Intake Policies

Animal Intake

- The NCRW accepts animals from members of the public and local/national authorities
- A collection service is available subject to circumstances
- Every effort will be made to accommodate any animal presented
- Holding facilities for animals in need of rehoming are provided to a high standard of welfare

Animal Placement

- Appropriate permanent homes are found for all animals in need
- Potential owners are required to have adequate facilities, equipment and means to provide for any rehomed animal
- The NCRW provides advice and support for those who have rehomed an animal

Animal Euthanasia

- Only where quality of life (as defined by the Animals Welfare Act (2006)) is deemed unacceptable will an animal be euthanised
- Animals are inspected by suitably qualified persons where appropriate
- Decisions as to viability are made in a timely fashion to prevent sustained suffering

Section B - Rehoming your reptile

The primary aim of the NRCW is to ensure the welfare of reptiles whose owners can no longer care for them.

- We support anyone who can no longer look after their pet reptile and understand this can be for a number of reasons, such as (but not limited to) financial, change in personal circumstances, bereavement or relationship break ups
- We will not judge you or criticise your reasons for wishing to rehome your pet
- We accept animals which need a Dangerous Wild Animals licence and animals requiring CITES or IAS permits
- Animals must be handed over in person, not left outside our facility as this could compromise welfare
- All animals handed over to our care will be looked after by experienced staff and students
- Owners must relinquish ownership of their animal to the NCRW
- Owners should peruse the Animal Care Policy document before deciding to relinquish ownership to the NCRW
- Our service is entirely confidential

Section C - Intake Procedures

Process

- **All animals entering the NCRW go through the triage process (see Section D) whereby they are:**
 1. Assessed
 2. An ID no. is issued
 3. The animal is admitted or, where appropriate, euthanised
 4. An ID card is issued if the animal is admitted

- **All animals admitted should, where practicable, enter the quarantine room where the following procedures will be applied:**
 - Snakes and lizards are kept for a minimum of 14 days
 - The animal is assessed for external parasites (mites) and treated appropriately
 - Snakes are routinely treated for mites as a precautionary measure
 - Any other appropriate tests are carried out and treatment administered where deemed necessary
 - Invasive procedures, e.g. blood testing is only carried out where animals are symptomatic of health issues and will be administered under veterinary supervision
 - Veterinary intervention sought as appropriate
 - **Animals not suitable for quarantine room and requiring barrier management:**
 1. Venomous animals (dedicated room)
 2. Large snakes
 3. Large lizards
 4. Crocodilians
 5. Chelonia
 6. Amphibia

- **All healthy animals enter the rehoming process upon completion of quarantining protocols**

Section D – Triage process

Animals presented to the Centre by members of the public:

The NCRW facility does not have any remit for accepting injured animals or animals that cannot be rehomed.

Initial triage is performed by non-veterinary staff not legally permitted to make a clinical diagnosis or prescribe treatment. A diagnosis can only be legally made by a veterinary surgeon under the Veterinary Surgery Act, 1966 and any non-qualified person would risk prosecution if they diagnose or treat an animal without appropriate supervision.

During the triage process the animal will be assessed as to the suitability for the NCRW assuming responsibility for its care.

If any animal presented for triage is found to be injured or a clinical case during assessment the NCRW may refuse to accept responsibility for its care and will advise the owner/ presenter that they must see a veterinary surgeon immediately. It should be noted on the triage form that this advice has been provided. Subsequent failure to consult a veterinary surgeon by the owner/presenter would be considered a criminal offence under the Animal Welfare Act, 2006.

The NCRW lacks the resource necessary to conduct investigations into pre-existing health conditions. If there are grounds to suspect that the animal being presented has a condition identifiable by testing, the person presenting the animal should be referred to an appropriate veterinary surgeon.

All animals entering the Centre must undergo the full triage process and the NCRW questionnaire completed.

A transfer of owner form will be completed for each animal presented.

Abandoned animals:

All abandoned animals will be identified and presented for initial assessment.

In the case of injured animals or clinical cases a veterinary opinion will be sought without delay. The NCRW may take the decision to euthanise the animal if the criteria for doing so are met.

Section E - Intake data

The following data collation is required for all animals entering the NCRW

Define reason for entering:

Rescue

- Abandoned: i.e. animal dumped, found living wild, etc.
- Illegal activity: welfare issues, illegal keeping (Inc. unlicensed DWAA)

Rehome

- Keeper contacts NCRW to rehome animal

Details required:

- Name and address of former keeper or reporter (may be anonymous)
- Species (including subspecies and/or morph where known)
- Name
- Sex
- Age (where known)
- Weight
- Id (chip) (if needed)
- Condition of animal (healthy, lethargic, active)
- Medical history (if available)
- status (CITES, DWA etc.)
- How long owned
- Special requirements
- Reason for rehoming

Actions required:

- Triage process as agreed by veterinary panel
- Reference number given
- Photographed
- Weighed
- Microchipped (if appropriate)
- ID card issued

Section F - Species categorisation

All animals entering the NCRW will be categorised in order that they may be appropriately rehomed.

Category A species (suitable for first time keepers)

Lizards:

Bearded dragon, *Pogona vitticeps*
Leopard gecko, *Eublepharis macularius*
Crested gecko, *Correlophus ciliatus*
Blue-tongue skink, *Tiliqua* spp.

Snakes:

Corn snake, *Pantherophis guttatus*
King snake, *Lampropeltis getulus*
Milk snake, *Lampropeltis triangulum*
Royal python, *Python regius*

Chelonia:

Mediterranean tortoises, *Testudo hermanni* & *T. graeca*
Horsfield's tortoise, *Agrionemys horsfieldii*
Mud turtle, *Kinosternon subrubrum*
Musk turtles, *Sternotherus odoratus*

Amphibians:

White's tree frog, *Litoria caerulea*
Fire-bellied toad, *Bombina* spp.
Axolotl, *Ambystoma mexicanum*

Category B species (suitable for more experienced keepers)


All species not on schedule A or C

Category C species (suitable for advanced keepers/zoos etc.)

Pythons and boas capable of exceeding 3.5 meters
Lizards capable of exceeding 1.2 meters
Crocodilians
Venomous snakes & lizards
Annex A species (excluding Mediterranean tortoises & Madagascan boas)

Section G - Animal labelling

At point of entry (triage room) every animal will be issued with an ID card, which will stay with it throughout its journey through the centre. The card needs to display very basic information (see below) and each animal will have a unique QR code that will display all data kept for that specimen on the system when scanned. The information on the card will also include the potential risk level posed to members of staff, i.e. low, medium or high. Every enclosure will have an ID card holder attached.

Common name: African Rock Python	
Latin name: <i>Python sebae</i>	
Name: Tiny	
ID No. 0000001	
Date: 10.03.2018	
Diet: carnivore	
Category: C	
Risk: High	