

Keeping Tasmanian Reptiles & Amphibians in Tasmania 2012-13

Aims of Herpetology in Tasmania

- To promote an active interest in the conservation and study of native reptiles and amphibians and their habitats.
- To promote public awareness and understanding of reptiles and amphibians.
- To promote liaison with and exchange of information between herpetological societies, scientific institutions and individuals.
- To promote and give advice on correct care of reptiles and amphibians.
- To promote adherence to conservation laws.

Collecting reptiles and frogs is only justified if it does not threaten wild populations, and the knowledge gained leads to better understanding of their biology and ecology.

Legislation

All reptiles and frogs are protected in Tasmania under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002 [Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010]* and some are also protected under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. Permits are required to possess most species. Refer to the *Code of Practice for Herpetology* and the table on the reverse to find out what species you can keep under a Herpetology Permit.

Trade in reptiles and frogs is not permitted.

Spot checks may be carried out.

Keeping dead reptiles and amphibians is subject to other permit requirements

Code of Practice for Herpetology

• Collecting

People who hold a Herpetology Permit must not collect or keep more than six adult specimens of any allowed species, or collect any allowed species from any reserved land. Refer back of page for a list of allowed species.

Capture of reptiles and amphibians should involve minimal stress to the animal and minimal disturbance to the habitat. Logs, rocks etc. should be replaced. Disturbance to water bodies should be minimal.

The following species may be **collected or kept in captivity without a permit**:

- up to six specimens of each of the common froglet, brown tree frog, metallic skink and spotted skink;
- frog eggs and tadpoles. A tadpole becomes a frog when its tail is absorbed. If metamorphosed frogs are not the above species, they should be returned to their water body of origin.

Species protected under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* or species that occur within reserved land are not permitted to be disturbed, taken (collected) or possessed.

Collection on private land can only be undertaken with the permission of the land owner/manager.

Introduced frogs, such as banana box frogs (found in fresh imported produce) or in water bodies should be reported immediately to DPIPWE.

Collecting should be done in a discreet manner and only take place if suitable housing is made ready before collecting.

Suitable housing conditions must be provided, including suitable temperature and humidity, adequate space and ample shelter.

• Management in captivity

Husbandry notes for some species are available from the Wildlife Management Branch, DPIPWE (see reverse for contact details).

- Food and fresh water must be provided appropriate to the needs of the species.
- Housing must be kept clean without accumulation of faeces or uneaten food.
- Overcrowding and unsuitable mixing of species must be avoided to prevent stress, predation and injury.
- Inter-breeding of individuals from different genetic origins (eg. Tasmanian island and Tasmanian mainland populations) is not permitted.
- Reptiles and amphibians must be kept in secure confinement to prevent escapes.
- Reptiles and amphibians are not permitted to be used as food for captive animals.

Under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* a person with the care or charge of a reptile or frog has a legal duty of care for the welfare of that animal

• Transport

Reptiles and amphibians should be transported in suitable containers that prevent suffering, injury, escape and predation. They should be kept cool and not exposed to the sun. Containers transporting venomous reptiles should be clearly marked.

• Release and disposal

Any surplus reptiles or amphibians to be released **should be returned to the place of capture** and released in a safe way while they are active. Do not release frogs, eggs or tadpoles into water bodies other than where they were originally taken from – this may assist in the prevention of the spread of disease.

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Reptiles removed from buildings or from close proximity to residential dwellings (as a service to the public) should be immediately released as close as practical and in suitable habitat.

Dead specimens should be offered to a museum or other institution together with any relevant records.

Reptiles and amphibians cannot not be purchased or sold.

Recording

People should record information on reptiles and amphibians observed in the field, including species, date, numbers or abundance, precise location and habitat description. The records should be contributed to the Natural Values Atlas database, managed by DPIPWE at least once every 12 months, to assist with improving knowledge of distribution of native fauna.

Detailed records should be kept on animals taken into captivity, including species, date, number, locality and habitat. Observations can also be made of growth rates, food preferences, behaviour, reproduction, disease, mortality and any post mortem results.

Legislation and Permit Renewal

A Herpetology permit is renewable annually, and subject to an annual return of animals collected and/or in captivity. Forms for renewal/returns will be posted out to permit holders prior to permit expiry.

Failure to comply with permit conditions constitutes a breach of the *Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010* and penalties apply.

Disease

Any signs of disease should be reported to DPIPWE on Ph: (03) 6233 6556 to provide important surveillance information. Ill animals should not be moved (other than directly to/from veterinary rooms) and veterinary or Department advice should be sought for these animals. Observational history can be of assistance with husbandry when healthy animals are transferred.

Disclaimer

The three native species of snake in Tasmania are all venomous. The Department will not be held responsible for injury/death resulting from snake bite and advise against the collecting and keeping of native snakes unless experienced in this area.

Species authorised/allowed to be held with an Herpetology Permit	Species subject to Scientific Permits – for Research Institutes only
<p>Reptiles</p> <p><i>Bassiana duperreyi</i> Three-lined skink <i>Cyclodomorphus casuarinae</i> She-oak skink <i>Egernia whitii</i> Whites skink <i>Lampropholis delicata</i> Delicate Skink <i>Niveoscincus greeni</i> Northern snow skink <i>N metallicus</i> Metallic skink <i>N microlepidotus</i> Southern snow skink <i>N ocellatus</i> Spotted skink <i>N orocryptus</i> Mountain skink <i>N pretiosus</i> Tasmanian tree skink <i>Pseudemoia entrecasteauxii</i> Southern grass skink</p> <p><i>Tiliqua nigrolutea</i> Blotched blue-tongue <i>Tympanocryptis diemensis</i> Mountain dragon</p> <p><i>Austrelaps superbus</i> Copperhead snake <i>Drysdalia coronoides</i> White-lipped snake <i>Notechis ater</i> Tiger snake</p> <p>Amphibians</p> <p><i>Crinia signifera</i> Common froglet <i>Geocrinia laevis</i> Smooth froglet <i>Limnodynastes dumerillii</i> Banjo frog <i>L. tasmaniensis</i> Spotted marsh frog <i>Litoria burrowsae</i> Tasmanian tree frog <i>L. ewingii</i> Brown tree frog <i>Pseudophryne semimarmorata</i> Southern toadlet</p>	<p>Reptiles</p> <p><i>Eulamprus tympanum</i> Southern water skink <i>Lerista bougainvillii</i> Bougainvilles skink All sea snakes</p> <p>Amphibians</p> <p><i>Bryobatrachus nimbus</i> Moss froglet</p>
	<p>Threatened Species – No taking or possession permitted</p> <p>Reptiles</p> <p><i>Niveoscincus palfreymani</i> Pedra Branca skink <i>Notechis ater serventyi</i> Chappell Island tiger snake <i>Pseudemoia pagenstecheri</i> Tussock skink <i>P rawlinsoni</i> Glossy grass skink All sea turtles</p> <p>Amphibians</p> <p><i>Litoria raniformis</i> Green and golden frog <i>Limnodynastes peronii</i> Striped marsh frog</p>

Contacts and Information

Reptile Rescue and Relocation 0407 565 181. E-mail rinctas@yahoo.com.au
 Wildlife Management Branch, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, GPO Box 44, Hobart 7001. Ph: (03) 6233 2520 or visit our website: <http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au>