



# **The Sussex Reptile Rescue Centre**

## **Animal Intake Policy 2024**



## **Section A-Intake Policy**

### **Animal Intake**

- The Sussex Reptile Rescue Centre 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 Sussex Reptile Rescue Centre provides advice and support for those who have rehomed an animal.

### **Animal Euthanasia**

- Only where quality of life (as defined by the Animal 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 Sussex Reptile Rescue Centre 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 do not currently accept animals which need a Dangerous wild animal licence and animals requiring CITES or IAS permits however work with other organisations including Zoological establishments who can take these animals and still encourage owners of DWA animals to get in touch with us.
- 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 volunteers
- Owners must relinquish ownership of their animal to the SRRC
- Owners should read the Animal Care Policy document before deciding to relinquish ownership to the SRRC
- Our services are entirely confidential



## Section C- Intake procedures

### Process

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

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



## **Section D- Triage Process**

The Sussex Reptile Rescue Centre facility does not have the 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.

If any animal presented for triage is found to be injured or a clinical case during assessment the SRRC may refuse to accept responsibility for it's care and will advise the owner/presenter that they must seek immediate veterinary surgeon consultation. 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 SRRC lacks the resources to conduct necessary investigations into pre-existing health conditions, although we are supported by a qualified veterinary advisor, they are unable to provide clinical investigations. If there are grounds to suspect that the animal being presented has a condition identifiable by testing, the person presenting should be referred to an appropriate veterinary surgeon.

All animals entering the centre must undergo the full triage process and The SRRC questionnaire completed.

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

### **Abandoned animals:**

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

In the case of injured animals or clinical cases a veterinary opinion will be sought without. The Sussex Reptile Rescue Centre 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 Sussex Reptile Rescue Centre.

### **Define reason for entering:**

#### **Rescue**

- Abandoned i.e. dumped, found living in the wild, etc.
- illegal activity: Welfare issues, illegal keeping i.e. unlicensed (DWA) animals

#### **Rehome**

Keeper contacts SRRC to rehome their animal(s)

#### **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)
- 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 Categorization**

#### **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***)
- Leopard Tortoise (***Stigmochelys pardalis***)
- Mud turtle (***Kinosternon subrubrum***)
- Musk turtles (***Sternotherus odoratus***)
- Indian Star Tortoise (***Geochelone elegans***)

#### **Amphibians:**

- White's tree frog (***Litoria caerulea***)
- Fire-bellied toad (***Bombina spp***)
- Red-eyed Tree frog (***Agalychnis callidryas***)