

ADOPT A REPTILE PROGRAM

Each year, hundreds of children come to the nature center to visit and learn about our amazing reptiles. These unique species of animals teach the children about diversity and adaptations. Their special niche in our wonderful natural environment helps to add balance to our world.

These animals need special care to thrive outside their natural environment and settle into life in our collection. Most of these reptiles come from homes where the owners could no longer care for them. They cannot be released out into the natural world for they would not survive. They are kept in a closed room next to the library in the nature center building to protect them from stress of having their enclosures tapped on and excessive viewing. They are taken care of with the help from incredible volunteers and staff. However the care and feeding of these reptiles is costly. With your help we raise funds to offset this cost.

Now is your chance to adopt one or more of these animals.



HOW IT WORKS

- Adoption is on a yearly basis. You may break this cost down monthly by paying with a credit card.

WHEN YOU ADOPT YOU RECEIVE:

- 1 year naming rights for your adopted reptile
- Framed picture of your adopted reptile
- VIP pass to see reptiles on feeding days

WITH ANY DONATION OF \$25 OR MORE FOR THE CARE OF OUR REPTILES YOU RECEIVE:

A VIP Pass gives you unlimited scheduled visitation to the reptile room to observe the animals during feeding time or regular center open hours



Lizards

Bearded Dragon – Male

Male dragons are quite the comical reptiles. They expand the area under their chin in an aggressive manner to let you think he is big and tough, and to appear attractive to the females. Our dragon recently had an injury which needed vet care. Apparently he had a bad shedding of the skin where part of the shed skin went into his eye. Due to this, he lost his eye. As a treat for his being such a good patient he got mega mealworms. He now expects these whenever he sees us.



1 year adoption - \$102.00 Donate Monthly - \$8.50

Blue Tongue Skink - Female

This lizard is a favorite among most school groups. Her shape and very slow lazy walk is what endears her to them. She eats a variety of vegetables and fruits, her favorite being bananas. But don't let her long body and short legs fool you. When there are crickets to be caught and devoured, she is quite fast. Our Blue tongue skink is the oldest reptiles in our group. She is exceeding the life expectancy of her species at 17 years.



1 year adoption - \$84.00 Donate Monthly - \$7.00

Leopard Geckos

There are two of them and feeding time is quite comical. Their diet consists of medium crickets and mealworms. They are a bit skittish about being held and need to be handled more to get them used to it. These lizards will break off their tails to escape from your grasp. Notice the gecko with the not so pretty tail. Tails do grow back but never look the same again.



1 year adoption per gecko - \$60.00 Donate Monthly - \$5.00

Turtles

1 year adoption - \$84.00



Russian Tortoise - Female

She is a little timid and does not really like to be picked up. She does, however, like to explore. When she is given access to roam free in the library she can really take off. She is docile with the other turtles and basically just leaves them alone. She is a vegetarian, and when food is put in her bowl, she finds it very quickly.

Eastern Box Turtle – Male

He is the largest of our tortoises and the most aggressive, considering box turtles are not known for their aggressiveness. Still, all in all, he is a great turtle to educate the kids with. He is never shy and will always put on a good show. We must be careful when putting him in a box with any of the females. He does like the ladies.





Three-toed Southern Box Turtle - Female

She is a very shy sweet little tortoise. When doing a show, she demonstrates to the kids how box turtles are the only turtle that can go into their shells and close it up like a box, hence the name. She had to be moved to her own box, because the other turtles became "mean" to her.

One day we found her with one of her marginal scutes torn off. She is much better now but when placed back with the others, they immediately started climbing all over her. Turtles and tortoises are very territorial, so perhaps they feel she is not one of them. She is a funny turtle in that when you go into the room to feed her, she comes out of her box and waits for her food.

Tree-toed Southern Box Turtle – Female

This little cutie from the South was taken from her Florida home by a vacationing family who thought it would be fun to have a pet turtle. She would be hard to return to her natural environment. She is also a bit shy and reclusive and rarely comes out of her box except to eat.



Snakes

All of our snakes are non-venomous. Their diet consists of "ratscicles" or frozen mice. We order these bulk and they must be defrosted before being fed to the snakes. The snakes have no teeth thus they swallow their food in one piece with no chewing. They have a straw-like tube on the base of mouth so they can breathe while their mouth is full.

1 year adoption fee for all snakes - \$180.00
To pay in monthly installments – \$15.00

Pine/Bull Snake - Male

This is one of our larger snakes. It is a mix between a pine snake native to pine forests and a bull snake which lives in the central part of America. He is a bit defensive as are most bull snakes. He likes to imitate a rattlesnake, first, it hisses, or forcibly exhales through a bisected glottis, which flaps back and forth producing a very convincing "rattle" sound. It will also take on a rattlesnake-like "S-curve" body posture, as if it is going to strike.



Eastern Milk Snake - female

This is one of our smaller snakes and a favorite among educators. She does get a bit moody, but that seems to be the way with most snakes. She has beautiful coloration. She has been with us for about 2 years now. She is captive bred and has been donated to us.

Ball Python – Male

This is one of hardest working snakes because he is easily handled. He likes to curl around your neck and just hang there. When people are nervous around snakes, he is the one we bring out. He is a hearty eater but a very poor shedder. We sometimes have to give him a soaking to loosen the skin for shedding. He does not mind this at all. Adopt him and you may help us with this





Eastern King Snake – Female

She is called a king snake for a very good reason. They will prove they rule by eating other snakes. When we do a program, we need to bring her out first, because if she smells other snakes on our hands, she just might try to bite us.

Honduran Milk Snake - Male

This is a beautiful snake. He displays an excellent example of Batesian mimicry. It is a form of mimicry typified by a situation where a harmless species has evolved to imitate the warning signals of a harmful species directed at a common predator. He is very good natured and is often the snake we allow children in our programs to touch.



Grey Corn Snake The corn snake subdues its small prey by constriction. The name "corn snake" is a holdover from the days when southern farmers stored harvested ears of corn in a wood frame or log building called a crib. Rats and mice came to the corn crib to feed on the corn, and corn snakes came to feed on the rodents. These types of snakes are very docile and easily handled. These snakes

also seem to be a favorite of breeders as there are so many color variations.

Motley Corn Snake –



Corn Snakes are very popular in the pet trade. In fact these are some of the most widely crossbred of all snake species. A wide variety of colorations and patterns are cultivated in this way. Our corn snake is quite a character. He spends most of his time buried under the bedding of his home. In the wild, corn snakes are found in the central and eastern United States, live in grasslands and forests, and often eat mice in corn that is being stored.

Captive corn snakes can reach four to six feet (1.22 to 1.83 m) in length and live up to around 20 years with proper care.

Columbian Red-tailed Boa – Male

(Boa constrictor imperator)He is a large, heavy-bodied species of snake. It is a member of the Boidae family found in Central America, South America and some islands in the Caribbean.. They are nocturnal, however they may bask during the day when night-time temperatures are too low. As semi-arboreal snakes, young boa constrictor individuals may climb into trees and shrubs to forage, however they become mostly terrestrial as they become older and heavier. He is about 7yrs old and 6 feet long.



digging in the soil and makes these snakes adept burrowers, which is a useful skill when hunting or seeking refuge from the elements.

Western Hognose – Unknown

Hognose snakes are relatively small, stout-bodied snakes found from southern Canada through the central United States into northern Mexico. They live in sparsely vegetated habitats on well-drained soils, such as dry prairie or oak savanna. Hognose snakes get their common name from their upturned snout, providing a "hog-like" look. This adaptation aids in