

Reptile Emergency Checklist



Food and Water

Freeze-dried or pellet food, or food safe for storage (as applicable)
Small container for water and misting for hydration
Supply of water safe for misting and drinking

Shelter Needs

Portable enclosure with lid and ventilation (mesh or screen top)
Heat source (battery-powered heat pads or warm water bottles)
Substrate for comfort and natural behaviors

Care Instructions

Temperature and humidity requirements specific to species
Feeding schedule and dietary notes
Veterinary contact, health records, and any required medications

Transportation Tips

Secure, escape-proof carrier with stable temperature controls
Reduce handling to limit stress during transport
Check carrier frequently to ensure temperature stability

Specific Requirements

Hydration or misting spray
Thermometer for monitoring temperature
Appropriate habitat accessories (hiding spots or logs)

Reptile First Aid Cheat Sheet



Wound Care and Bleeding

Clean any open wounds gently with diluted Betadine or a saline solution. Avoid using alcohol-based solutions as they can harm reptile skin.

If bleeding, apply gentle pressure with a sterile gauze pad until it stops. Avoid tight bandaging as it can disrupt blood flow and healing.

Let minor wounds air-dry in a clean environment, checking regularly for signs of infection, such as redness or swelling.

Burns (Common from Heat Sources)

Rinse the burn with cool water immediately to prevent further tissue damage.

Apply a thin layer of reptile-safe antiseptic ointment if available, ensuring the reptile doesn't ingest it.

Avoid using direct heat sources until the burn heals, and ensure the reptile has a safe temperature-controlled environment.

Respiratory Issues (Common in Reptiles)

Signs include wheezing, mouth-gaping, and mucus around nostrils.

Keep the enclosure at an optimal temperature and increase humidity if needed by misting lightly. This can help ease breathing but must be monitored closely to avoid excess moisture.

Avoid over-handling to reduce stress and allow the reptile to breathe more easily. If symptoms persist, monitor carefully and adjust temperature and humidity as needed.



Dehydration

Signs of dehydration include wrinkled skin, sunken eyes, and reduced activity.

Soak the reptile in shallow, lukewarm water for 15-20 minutes, allowing it to absorb water through its skin.

Ensure access to fresh water and mist the enclosure lightly for species that benefit from higher humidity.

Impaction (Common from Ingesting Substrate or Indigestible Items)

Symptoms include a lack of appetite, bloating, and reduced bowel movements.

Soak the reptile in warm water for 15-20 minutes to stimulate digestion and gently massage the abdomen if tolerated.

Avoid feeding until the reptile passes stool, and do not offer any substrates that may worsen impaction (use paper towels or a flat surface instead).

Mouth Rot (Infectious Stomatitis)

Symptoms include swollen gums, pus, or a white/yellow coating inside the mouth.

Clean the affected area with a diluted Betadine solution if accessible.

Avoid feeding hard foods that could irritate the mouth and monitor for signs of improvement, keeping the environment clean to prevent further infection.

Temperature Shock (Both Heat and Cold)

For heat shock: Move the reptile to a cooler environment gradually, using cool—not cold—water on a cloth if necessary to gently lower body temperature.

For cold shock: Warm the enclosure gradually using a heat mat or warm water bottles wrapped in cloth, allowing the reptile to self-regulate by moving toward or away from the heat source.

Reptile Enrichment Activities Cheat Sheet for Stress Relief



DIY Toys and Games

Climbing Structures: Use safe rocks, branches, or logs to create a climbing area inside their enclosure.

Foraging Rocks: Scatter food around the enclosure on rocks or platforms to encourage natural hunting or foraging.

Hiding Spots: Create extra hiding spaces with small boxes or half-buried rocks for them to explore.

Exercises and Activities

Exploration Time: If safe, let them explore a secure area outside the enclosure under supervision to reduce boredom.

Basking and Soaking: Provide a basking spot with UV light and a shallow dish of water for soaking, as these are natural calming activities.

Temperature Variation: Ensure that they have access to different temperature zones within their enclosure to self-regulate.

Stress-Relief Techniques

Darkened Areas: Cover part of the enclosure to give them a dark, calm retreat area.

Mist for Humidity (If Needed): Mist the enclosure lightly to maintain humidity if required by the species. This can help reduce stress in some reptiles.

Limit Handling: Avoid excessive handling, especially if they show signs of stress, as many reptiles prefer minimal interaction.

Reptile Evacuation Route Planner Cheat Sheet



1. Evacuation Route Planning

Primary Route: _____

Alternative Route: _____

Reptile-Friendly Stops (temperature-controlled areas):

2. Pet-Friendly Accommodations

Hotels with Temperature Control:

Hotel Name: _____ | Location:

_____ | Phone: _____

Boarding Facilities with Reptile Care:

Facility Name: _____ | Location:

_____ | Phone: _____

Pet-Friendly Shelters with Temperature Control:

Shelter Name: _____ | Location:

_____ | Contact:

3. Veterinarian and Emergency Contacts

Primary Veterinarian: _____ | Phone:

Emergency Vet in Evacuation Area:

Clinic Name: _____ | Location:

_____ | Phone: _____

24-Hour Emergency Contact: _____ |

Phone: _____

4. Additional Notes and Special Needs

Special Care Needs (heat or humidity requirements):

Backup Reptile Supplies Locations (pet stores en route):

Emergency Contacts for Reptile Care (friend/family):

Reptile Long-Term Shelter and Care Setup Checklist



Shelter Essentials

Secure Enclosure: Use a secure tank or terrarium with a lockable lid.

Temperature and Humidity Control: Maintain temperature using heat lamps, heat mats, or heating rocks as appropriate for the species. Monitor humidity with a hygrometer and adjust as necessary (misting or ventilation).

Ventilation: Ensure the enclosure has adequate ventilation without allowing temperature fluctuations.

Food Storage

Pellets and Dried Food: Store in airtight containers to keep fresh.

Water Supply: Provide a clean water dish in the enclosure and store extra water for misting or drinking.

Live Food: If needed, keep a backup source of live food in a separate container (like crickets or worms) in a secure container with ventilation.

Waste Management

Spot Cleaning: Use gloves and a scoop to remove waste daily from the enclosure.

Substrate: Have an extra supply of substrate (like reptile-safe soil or paper towels) to replace as needed.

Disinfectants: Use reptile-safe cleaners to disinfect the tank and accessories periodically.

Enrichment and Mental Stimulation

Hiding Spots: Set up multiple hiding places, such as small caves or branches.

Climbing Structures: Include rocks, logs, or branches for climbing.

Foraging: Place food in different spots within the enclosure to encourage natural foraging behavior.