

## BOOK REVIEW

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*A practical guide for feeding captive reptiles; F.L. Frye, 1991. Krieger Publ. Co., Florida.*

The respected vet Frye has written this superb ideal book for the reptile keeper. The main text is in three chapters:

1. Basic nutrition for captive reptiles, which discusses the importance of a varied diet for reptiles;
2. Nutrition-related illness and its treatment. Surgery and medication is beyond the scope of amateurs but the day to day feeding of a balanced diet and an awareness of the effects of dietary deficiencies allows the amateur plenty of room to ensure the raising of healthy specimens, which then surely reduces physical ailments. This chapter includes a table over 4 pages long which lists plants which are toxic, specifying the toxic portion of the plant. This table alone makes the book essential for all keepers of herbivores who may innocently poison their charge.
3. Sources of reptile food with notes on culture of prey food, how to prepare, store and use frozen food (an area I know some people err at the cost of their animal). Tables in this chapter list the chemical composition of many food types. Five appendices complete the book: list of herpetological societies of the USA, Glossary, References and two lists (one by common names and one by scientific names) cross-referencing common and scientific names. If nothing else the last two should stimulate late night discussions. Overall this is an essential book for all reptile keepers and I would suggest it is to be read by all before obtaining a reptile and all seasoned reptile keepers all of whom, I am sure, will learn something from these pages.