



DEAD ANIMALS

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Anyone, who keeps animals, is bound to find one dead sometimes. I, personally, think it's a waste throwing such an animal away. I know people who keep their deceased pet in the freezer, so they can still look at it from time to time. Unfortunately all these animals get damaged in time and still have to be thrown away.

There is an alternative; you can put your snake in spirits. This is very easy to perform; you take an old jar, fill it with 4% formalin, available at your drugstore and insert your dead snake. Large snakes will need to be injected with formalin, be extra carefully with venomous snakes; they are still potentially dangerous.

Please take care and wear rubber gloves, for formalin is very powerful.

In the beginning you will have to change the formalin every 3 to 4 weeks. If you decide not to, your formalin will get cloudy. After the third time you can seal your jar (leave 2 cm of formalin above your snake). Do not just throw away your used formalin but leave it at a chemical deposit.

Some advice: If you'd like your snake to assume a certain position, form coils of wire on a stick. You can then lower your snake into the coils and form the snake to the desired shape. This all has to stay in formalin for at least 2 weeks.

Put a small wooden log in the mouth of the snake. This will fix it open.

You can also conserve all other reptiles and amphibians this way.

Translated by *Henriette Bakker*
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