snake breeder

The International Newsletter for Snake Enthusiasts

IHS FAIR

The second IHS Reptile Fair held on September 16th proved to be popular with over 600 reptile keepers present. The Fair was easy to find, the hall was enormous and refreshments included chip butties! The organisers can surely congratulate themselves on making this Fair *the* major event for UK reptile keepers.

ESS SNAKE DAY

The European Snake Society have announced two lectures for their Snake Day to be held on October 20th in Utrecht. 'Snake Hunting in Texas' and 'Captive Breeding and Care of *Corallus caninus*' will be presented by Mr Tepeleden. Fans of IHS Vice Chairman Kevin J. Hingley will be disappointed to hear that he has had to cancel his lecture.

ANIMAL BAN

An article in Cage and Aviary Birds describing attempts by German protectionist groups to devise a means of banning the keeping of most animals has created concern amongst some UK reptile keepers. Details are vague and sound too ridiculous to be true but according to the article the law has already been passed in one state, is being considered by the national government in Bonn and will be introduced at the next CITES meeting to ensure that it becomes law across the EEC in 1993. The National Association of Private Animal Keepers has taken up the fight against the proposals.

IN THIS ISSUE

* **AN INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS MATTISON, PART II.**

Chris explains how he came to write his first book, gives advice to would-be authors and offers a prediction for the future of UK snake keeping.

* **SLY'S DAY OUT**

Kelvin Waltho relates a cautionary tale for anyone taking their snake on an educational visit.

* **EXPERIENCES WITH BURMESE PYTHONS, PART I**

Mark Hatcher's article begins with the design and construction of a large vivarium that almost proved fatal for his canine companion.

JERRY COLE

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Phone for latest price list.
Telephone (03004) 738
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6 Salisbury Terrace, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1JT

Snake Breeder

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We always need articles and news items for Snake Breeder. The number of people keeping reptiles is growing rapidly and many newcomers to the hobby may benefit from your advice, experience or tips. Don't worry about minor points such as speeling or . punctuation - we'll sort that out. In return for your contribution we'll send you five free copies of the newsletter containing your article. Your favourite aunt or uncle will view you in a new light when you present them with a copy of Snake Breeder containing your work. We look forward to hearing from you - soon!

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If you have recently subscribed to Snake Keeper your address label should include details of your subscription number and final issue. The issue indicated is the last issue you will receive. With that final issue you should find a renewal form.

Snake Breeder
October 1990 10/90

An Interview with Chris Mattison Part II 3

Sly's Day Out by Kelvin Waltho 7

Experiences with Burmese Pythons, Part I by Mark Hatcher 8

Info: Snakes in Print, Forthcoming Events & Miscellaneous 9

Classified Adverts 11 & 12

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS & RENEWALS

Welcome to the following readers who have recently subscribed to Snake Breeder or renewed their subscriptions.

H Doyle, J Thompson, D Stewart, N Gilchrist, M Starkey, L Rowe, P Guntrip, S Rouse, A Mayston, C Blacker, G Langridge, R Whitbread, M Johnson, R Waite, L Carter, P Murphy, A Buzz Jehle (USA), K Macey, Mr & Mrs Skinner, P & J Wheat, N Jessop, J Porter (Canada) & E Dixon.

Snake Keeper Back Issues

We can still supply back issues of our previous publication, Snake Keeper. If you would like a list of contents and prices telephone (0494) 722769 or write to Snake Keeper Publishing (Back Issues), 159 Stanley Hill, Amersham, Bucks HP7 9EY.

An Interview with Chris Mattison, Part II

In the second part of this interview, Chris Mattison, best-selling author of numerous herpetological books explains how he came to write his first book, gives advice to would-be authors and offers a prediction for the future of snake keeping in the UK.

sb: *You're obviously interested in all aspects of natural history but why have snakes become your main interest?*

CM: I lived in a part of the country where there were quite a lot of snakes so when I was 11 or 12 I could get on my bike and go out to the New Forest to catch snakes. It's difficult to explain why snakes developed as my main interest as opposed to other things; I was into bird watching and butterfly collecting at that age. Basically the reason that snakes have been the thing that I keep in captivity and I write about isn't the fact that I know any more about snakes than I do about other aspects of natural history. It's just that with the other subjects there are a lot of people who know more than me whereas with snakes it is more specialised, there are not so many people involved. If you know a little bit about something as specialised as snakes then you tend to know more than the majority. The same with all reptiles and amphibians; I've made lots of observations about frogs and snakes that I've never seen written down elsewhere. I think that's interesting because you feel that you're actually making a contribution by passing that information on; perhaps someone else is going to take it a stage further. If you were trying to do the same thing with birds you would really have to be a full time scientist with lots of financial backing to get to the level where you could start making original observations. Reptiles and amphibians are good animals for the amateur to study in Britain. There is still a lot we do not know.

How did your first book 'The Care of Reptiles and Amphibians in Captivity' come about?

That book came about because, in the good old days when there were only about six people in this country really interested in reptiles, a lot of potential keepers used to ask me for advice. One of the questions they asked was where they could get a good book that told them how to look after reptiles and amphibians and I couldn't give a satisfactory answer. I worked in a pet shop and pet shops have always sold the odd reptile, garter snakes and other different things, over the years. There has always been a kind of reptile standby in the pet trade but the people behind these things knew absolutely nothing about how to keep them: what I knew was often only what I had managed to work out for myself. I used to ask other people (friends of mine who knew far more about reptiles than I did) why they didn't write a book so that when I was asked to recommend one I could suggest theirs. Some of my friends would say that they would get around to it but, of course, they never did. On the spur of the moment, really, I phoned up a publisher and said I'd written some magazine articles on reptiles and keeping them in captivity

and how would they like to do a book on the subject. They jumped at the chance. It was just one of those things, the timing was obviously right. It was something for which they felt there was obviously a market and they probably wouldn't have known where to look for an author if they had wanted to. I got a contract within a couple of months of making the original suggestion. It was as simple as that; I didn't have to work very hard. That first book was The Care of Reptiles and Amphibians in Captivity for Blandford Press. They were the first publishers I approached and I chose them because they had already published books on bird keeping and fish keeping and subjects like that and I felt it fitted into their style and the subject matter they were already doing. I've more or less stuck with them ever since.

You mentioned that it took approximately 18 months to write that book. Did you lose heart at all during that time?

No, because these books are really easy to write. They're tabulated in as much as you've got, for example, half a page to devote to, say, Leopard Geckos, so you can tackle particular sections almost like magazine articles and then just string them together. It's not like writing a novel where you have to work your way right through to the end; you can do little chunks and if you get fed up with writing about lizards you can put all the lizard stuff in the cupboard and do a bit on tortoises! It lends itself to my mentality as I can slip from one thing to another and link it all together at the end. I don't find it discouraging.

Did the publishers approach you about writing a second book?

Basically what happened was that I handed the book in and immediately had an idea for another one. Actually I had about 16 ideas but they didn't really want to know. Obviously, their strategy was to give the first one time in the shops to see what the response was so they were fairly discouraging really. They said they would think about it, a case of 'don't call us, we'll call you'. Once they had published the first book and it sold as well as they had hoped then they picked up on one of the ideas, Snakes of the World, that I had tried to sell them a year earlier which was quite encouraging. During the period in which I wrote Snakes of the World and while it was being printed, sales of the first book were picking up and actually improving all the time so I think that at that point the publishers realised they could find a good niche in the market. No-one else was doing these books in their kind of way, at that price level etc; I think they decided to invest quite a lot of time and effort into it and to keep the ball rolling, to keep ahead of the field. Ever since then it's been a question of me coming up with an idea and, providing it hasn't been completely outrageous, they've let me go ahead. This is one of the reasons I like working for them: I can, to some extent, pick and choose what I do. I'd always wanted to do the book on frogs which I think are the most interesting group (biologically); on the face of it it's not a very popular subject but, once they'd done the snake book and they realised there was a market,

they let me do it.

Was it a good feeling to go into a book shop and see your first book on sale?

No, not really. It was an anti-climax because you've got rid of the thing, you've sent it off to the publishers, quite glad to see it go, and then it takes a year before it's published. In that year you realise all the things you should have put in and all the things you should have done differently. Then new information comes to light so that by the time the book appears it's just an embarrassment really. I don't really get much of a kick out of that at all.

Having become a successful author with several titles under your belt can you now afford to take things easy?

The hard part for me, having given up work to do this, is that I rely on this money to live. The money I make from breeding snakes is very little. I have to make enough money out of my writing and photography to survive. The hard thing is that this year I've already been paid for my writing, I got my royalties in April, and that's got to last me a year. It would be very easy to sit back and do nothing and think well I've got some money in the bank, I don't need to do anything this year, I can have a good time. But what I do this year isn't going to provide my royalties for next year but for the following year: I work for a year on a book, hand it in, it takes a year to be printed and come out and then it might be six months before there is a royalty payment. I'm looking two to three years ahead for my earnings. It requires a lot of self discipline.

You're currently writing 'Keeping and Breeding Lizards'. When will that will be completed?

I don't know. It's meant to be in by the first of September but it's probably going to be a bit late. It will probably be the autumn of '91 before it is published at the very earliest, if I'm on time and the publishers are on time.

Do you have any advice for would-be authors?

Yes, get a publisher first. Writing a book is a huge commitment and if you spend a year, even if it's just a year of your spare time, working on something and it's just not quite what the publisher wants you might as well tear it up and start again. There is no way I would start without a publisher, the most I would do is get some ideas down on paper. I'd think about how I would do a book on say rat snakes, get some literature together, maybe a little research and then approach a publisher. Basically if they are not interested at this stage they are not going to be interested when you've written it. As publishers, they are not really interested in literature. They are looking for something that's saleable, something that will make money. They can get editors to knock your work into shape. If you can't spell properly that doesn't matter but they can't force people to buy a book that they are not interested in. It's no good asking your friends if they would buy your new book on rat snakes because you're not selling the book to

your friends or other herpetologists, you've got to sell the book to the publisher and then it's up to the publisher to sell the book to the general public. Publishers are very conservative, they are not going to pump tens of thousands of pounds into a book just because you think it will sell well or all your mates have promised to buy a copy. If you like filling up note books with lots of information, writing it all out and imagining you're writing a book that's going to be published then fine. Some people get away with it and write books and do manage to sell them but there are an awful lot of people who don't. You have got to convince the publisher that it is worth publishing a book on a particular subject and then you have to convince them that you are the person to write it. As once happened to me, you might approach a publisher with an idea and then it all goes quiet; the next thing you know they've asked someone else to write it.

Do you have any predictions on the future of snake keeping in the UK?

I think there are a couple of things that have got to happen or are bound to happen. One is that prices will come down and I think as people are producing more and more snakes they are going to have to look to the pet trade as an outlet. A lot of people in this country who breed snakes look down on the pet trade and wouldn't, at the moment, feel they would want to sell their offspring (snakes that is!) to the pet trade. I've heard people say nothing they breed is ever going to end up in the pet trade and that's fine while you've got a ready market but there are so many people now into snake breeding, particularly some of the common species, that the market is going to become flooded. Personally, I think people should realise that they are going to have to sell some animals to the pet trade. If you take an average person who breeds perhaps ten species of snakes, he might have three or four species which are fairly rare and specialised which he can sell to other specialists and then, of the remainder, he might only be able to sell one or two pairs to specialists and then he is going to have to go to the pet shop and ask them to take them. Actually I don't think that's a bad thing. They are captive bred and if the pet shops stock up with captive bred snakes they are not going to import so much wild caught stock so it's good for wild populations. From the pet shops' point of view they are getting clean animals which they wouldn't be getting from the importers. It is true that some pet shops don't look after their stock properly but I think that's where people supplying captive bred snakes to them can be in control to some extent. They can refuse to sell to shops which don't care for their stock. I think that has probably already started to happen and over the next few years it's going to be quite a big thing. Virtually every snake that I breed goes to someone who hopes to breed it. If you're producing a hundred snakes a year, fifty pairs, and if not many of those die, in two years time you're going to have fifty more breeding pairs and we are going to get to the point where everybody is breeding a lot of snakes. We are not there yet, except perhaps with Corn Snakes.

Sly's Day Out

by Kelvin Waltho

I'm sure that most snake keepers have taken their animals to a school or exhibition at some time. After months of pestering by my son, Simon, (who attends high school) I finally gave in and agreed to take my 3.75 metre male Burmese Python to show his English teacher (who was quite fond of snakes) and class.

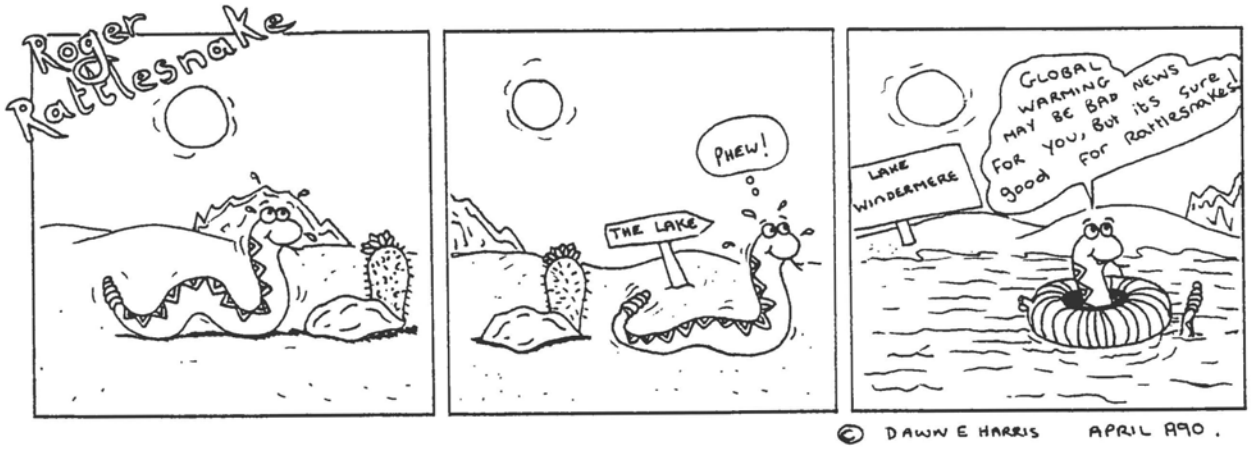
I arranged details with the headmaster. His receptionist was very concerned that the snake would arrive in a secure container.

On the day of the visit I set off with Sly packed in his sack and box. I told the receptionist who I was and, keeping to the back of the reception area, she gave me directions to Simon's classroom.

On entering Simon's classroom I was greeted by 35 staring children, all keen to see the box's contents. However, I first gave a short talk about snakes and answered the usual questions. I then proceeded to get Sly out of his box to show the audience and that's when the 'fun' began!

Sly decided that lying on a school desk wasn't all that much fun and he decided to 'take off'. I had just managed to catch hold of him by his neck when he suddenly sprayed me with urine. This obviously made his body rather slippery. It was at that point, when I was only just managing to keep hold of him, that he took off again and landed on the floor. I grabbed him again but he turned and sank his teeth into my hand. For an encore Sly then sprayed the blackboard with urine, much to the amusement of the teacher and the delight of his class. Sly continued in this manner for a few minutes until I had managed to get a good grip on him. Quickly I bagged him up and put him in the box. After wiping my face and head (in addition to the soaking from Sly I was pouring with sweat after this embarrassing sequence of events) I finished with a question and answer session before heading for home.

At home I put Sly back into his vivarium and he returned to his normal self. The following day he fed on a large rabbit. He has never repeated his school visit behaviour and I still don't know why he behaved as he did. I suppose even snakes have off days!



Experiences with Burmese Pythons, Part I

by Mark Hatcher

I purchased my first Burmese Python (Oscar) as a hatchling in 1981. Over the next eight years he proved to be a most undemanding snake to keep and matured into a beautifully marked creature. His caging has always been well ventilated, wooden vivaria with glass fronts which have grown in size, as has Oscar, over the years. In 1987, I decided that I would like to try and breed from him. At this stage he measured over 10 feet and was in obvious need of larger accommodation.

The design of this new vivarium was complicated by a lack of space and the urge to keep several other species. After many hours of head scratching and several bins full of waste paper I settled on a design based on a 8′ x 7′ x 8′ cuboid. The vivarium to contain the pythons took up virtually all the floor area but for half the width was only four feet high. This allowed other vivaria of various dimensions to be built into the cuboid.

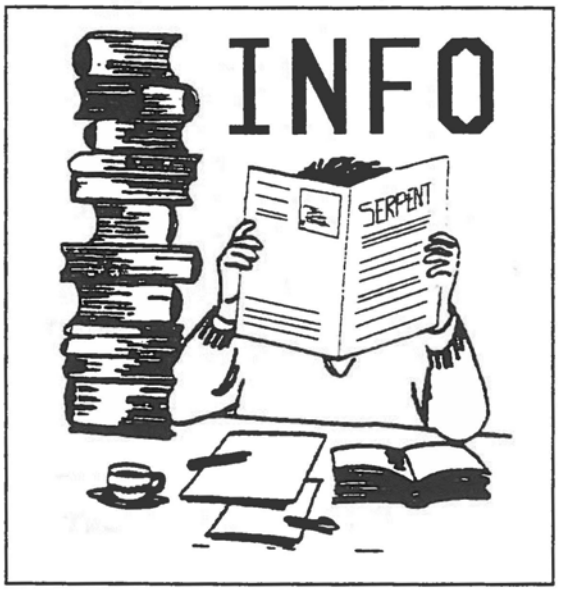
A few weeks later I was confronted with thirty sheets of chipboard, several hundred feet of softwood, a couple of sheets of plastic and many other sundry items. I then realised how utterly useless learning woodwork at school had been; apart from making wonderful polished spoons (most of which broke) my previous experience with wood was nil. However, having spent a lot of money I was loathe to leave the wood to rot and decided to have a go.

Twelve months later after one or two minor (and many major) modifications, much 'hammer-rash', one collapse that almost proved fatal for the dog and innumerable jokes about elephant traps it was finished. Though not aesthetically beautiful it is, surprisingly, structurally sound and hopefully will fulfil the functions for which it was designed.

The main vivarium has two doors, one half-height and one normal. This I have found to be a most useful feature along with the ability to partition the cage into two sections. This has made cleaning and feeding snakes separately far easier than it otherwise would have been. Heating is by means of a 300W soil heater and a 250W ceramic heater, both controlled by a thermostat. Light is provided by a 250W spotlight (controlled by a dimmer switch) and a fluorescent tube; both are on a timer. Daylight is allowed into the cage via two windows and both the doors are glazed. All electrical appliances are fitted with guards to prevent injury to the snakes. Furnishings consist of two large branches allowing climbing and basking and a large water bowl. A hide box was included until recently but was discontinued as it was seldom used: the snakes preferred a dark corner.

Oscar took up residence in his new home in March 1989 and in the Autumn he started to wander round the vivarium in search of a mate.

In part II of his article Mark explains how Oscar became ill and describes the arrival of Lilo Lil and Bonnie and Clyde.



SNAKES IN PRINT

Reptile Keeper International
Number 5 (A4)
Northern Herpetological Society
8 Bromley Gardens, Battle Hill, Wallsend, North Tyneside, NE28 9BS.

Boas of the Genus *Eryx*, Part I by Jon Flynn. (3 pages.) In part one of this article the South Western Herpetological Society's Journal Editor, Jon Flynn, deals with *Eryx jaculus*, *E. johnii*, *E. colubrinus* and *E. conicus*.

Successful Breeding of the African Striped Sand Snake, *Psammophis subtaeniatus* by Hans van der Rijst. (2 pages.) Dutch keeper's experiences with a pair of captive-bred snakes covering maintenance and reproduction.

Litteratura Serpentium
Volume 10 No 3 - June 1990
Dutch Snake Society
Pauwenweld 18, 2727 DE Zoetermeer, The Netherlands.
Telephone 079-416592.

Some experiences with *Boiga irregularis* by Ton Steehouder. (6 pages.) Following a description of the species the author describes sexual differences, habits and behaviour. One of his three snakes had many worms and a slight cold and he describes the treatment he used. One specimen had difficulty in sloughing its skin and eventually died from what was thought to be a bacterial infection.

Some Experiences with the Short-tailed Python, *Python curtus* by L. Hulsker. (5 pages.) The author bought a couple of animals in 1988 and was advised to house them in a marsh vivarium. Problems (small swellings under the scales and mouth infections) developed and the snakes were transferred to a dry environment. After successful veterinary treatment the animals recovered. Getting the snakes to feed proved difficult although a wide range of food was offered. A second male was purchased and copulations were observed through September, October and November 1989.

Melbourne's Snakes, Part II by Raymond T. Hoser. (24 pages.) Mr Hoser completes his guide to the snakes of Melbourne by describing *Drysdalia coronoides*, *Notechis scutatus*, *Pseudechis porphyriacus*, *Pseudonaja textilis* and *Unechis flagellum*. Colour plates of each species are included.

The Herptile
Volume Fifteen Number Three
ISSN 0953-2021
The International Herpetological Society
65 Broadstone Avenue, Walsall, West Midlands WS3 1JA.

Pairing Behaviour in Australian Snakes by Raymond T. Hoser. (9 pages.) Mr Hoser observes that some reptile texts "state that for most snake species a male, by his wanderings during the breeding season, will hopefully find a receptive female, mate with her and then part ways". Observations by the author of wild and captive animals lead him to refute this idea in some specimens and he proposes that for many species the male 'trails' the female for some period during the mating season, mating with her more than once. Evidence for his assertion covering various Australian species is given.

Repeated Unsuccessful Breeding of the Mangrove Snake, *Boiga dendrophila* by Ashley Tweedale. (3 pages.) The author's three snakes (2.1) were purchased as subadult long-term captives in 1988. They mated throughout 1989 and although eggs were laid in June, September and November of that year they all proved infertile.

Keeping African File Snakes, *Mehelya ssp.* by Stephen Spawls. (4 pages.) Well-known, Botswana-based author (hands up anyone who hasn't read Sun, Sand and Snakes) describes his experiences with File Snakes including feeding (they eagerly accept House Snakes) and collecting (the only specimen he found in Kenya in 8 years was run over by the motorist in front).

Have You Ever Given an African Python, *Python sebae*, the Kiss of Life? by Jeff Protheroe. (4 pages.) A colleague's African Rock Python had laid 12 eggs but still had a large bulge which looked as though it might be a retained egg. Jeff accompanied the snake to the local veterinary surgery (where an x-ray revealed the suspected egg) and offered his services to the vet. Three quarters of an hour into the operation an extra pair of hands were required and so the help of the surgery cleaner had to be sought. This proved to be a mistake quickly overtaken by a disaster when the snake stopped breathing! There is a happy ending though.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Items for inclusion in this column are welcome and should include time, date, venue and a contact telephone number.

20th October 9.30am

European Snake Society 'Snake Day', Universiteitscentrum "De Uithof", Dept. Bizondere Dieren, Yalelaan, Utrecht. Contact Guido Gomes on The Netherlands (079) 416592.

MISCELLANEOUS

THE WESTCOAST HERPETOLOGICAL BREEDING AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Foundation is a registered non-profit making charitable organisation created for the purpose of developing and managing captive breeding programs for various species of reptiles and amphibians. Most of their efforts are directed towards threatened or endangered species. It is the intention of the Foundation to donate the desired captive-bred offspring to Zoological parks,

Aquariums and other educational or research facilities in an effort to curtail the need to collect specimens from the wild. As part of its educational program the Foundation will publish as much new and important information as possible concerning the animals they work with.

If you would like further information about the Foundation, write to them at:

The Westcoast Herpetological Breeding and Research Foundation,
647 Kemsley Avenue, Coquitlam, B.C. Canada V3J 3Z4.
Telephone (604) 931 1941

THE REPTILE BREEDING FOUNDATION

Scales and Tales, the newsletter of the RBF reports that they will be trying to increase their captive breeding programmes with the reptiles and amphibians of Madagascar. Population pressures and changes in agricultural practice are destroying what little is left of the island's environment. An increase in the number of wild-caught animals from Madagascar has been observed in Canadian pet stores and the RBF finds this trend worrisome. The Foundation are seeking funding for their current project and to include other endangered species in their program. $80,625 is needed over the next 18 months. Can you help? Write to them at:

The Reptile Breeding Foundation,
PO Box 1450, Picton, Ontario, Canada K0K 2T0.
Telephone (613) 476 3351

SNAKES AT COLCHESTER ZOO

Colchester Zoo in Essex offer a short lecture on snakes followed by a handling display every day at 11am and 2pm. For travel details and admission prices telephone (0206) 330253.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTS
(continued from page 12)

WANTED

Female **Grey Rat Snake** adult/sub adult. Captive bred or long term captive. Telephone (0524) 843486 after 6pm.

Male *Thamnophis sirtalis* (**Common Garter Snake**) around two to three years old. David Silvester, 188 Wrens Hill Road, Wrens Nest Estate, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 3SF.

Heterodon nasicus female, captive bred yearling or adult. Phone Les on Stevenage 740561.

Male *Coluber jugularis*. Phone Snake Breeder on (0494) 722769.

Male adult or subadult **Brazilian Rainbow Boa** *(Epicrates cenchria cenchria)*. Please phone Mr Doyle on Coventry (0203) 442054 after 6pm weekdays.

Advertisements from private individuals are printed in this section without charge. We are normally able to accept items for inclusion up to the final day of the month, subject to space. Send your advert by post, telephone, fax or Prestel MBX to Snake Breeder, 159 Stanley Hill, Amersham, Bucks HP7 9EY. Tel: (0494) 722769, Fax (0494) 728786 (phone first) or Prestel Mailbox 494728786.

Royal News
The Newsletter for Royal Python Owners Everywhere

Enquiries to Lee Bowler
37 Sixty Acres, Prestwood, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 0PE. Tel: (02406) 6328.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

FOR SALE

Indian Pythons (6-7') £110. Feeding dead chicks and rats. Also **Royal Pythons**, all good feeders, £35. **Indian Python** hatchlings, good temperament and good feeders, £75. Phone Bryan (0375) 382682 day or (03752) 3233 night.

Two adult male **California Kingsnakes**, £60 each. One unrelated pair of adult **Carolina Corn Snakes** (bred this year), £100 pair. All snakes in excellent condition, feeding & sloughing. Records available for all snakes. Phone Allan on (0902) 784805 (W'hampton).

Grey Rat Snake. Four year old male, healthy and eating dead food. £60. Telephone (0524) 843486 after 6pm.

Male **Indian Rock Python**, 10', 4½ years old. £250. Very tame. Phone (0359) 42341 (Suffolk).

Hatchling captive-bred **California Kingsnake** (banded phase). Feeding well, £35. Phone Doug or Pauline on Plymouth (0752) 790748.

200 Red worms £2.40p plus 70p first class postage. 200 Brandlings £2.40p plus 70p first class postage. David Silvester, 188 Wrens Hill Road, Wrens Nest Estate, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 3SF.

Burmese Pythons. Female 14½' £175. Male 8½' £155. Both feeding well on dead food and very tame. Telephone Mike on (081) 886 9962.

Pair of captive bred young **Brazilian Rainbow Boas**, *Epicrates cenchria cenchria*. £420 pair. Captive bred baby **Egyptian Sand Boas**, *Eryx colubrinus colubrinus*. £45 each. Telephone Mark Johnson on Bristol (0272) 853894.

Male **Hog Island Boa**, 3½-4'. Long term captive. Very good condition and colour. Feeding on rats. £125. Phone Simon on (0273) 553303 (Brighton).

Two **Boa Constrictors.** Male and female, 3'. £200 including tank. Phone Adrian on (05394) 33973 (Ambleside) after 6pm.

Yearling snakes - Albino **Black Rat Snakes, Everglades Rat Snakes, Trinket Snake, Chain Kingsnakes, Florida Kingsnakes, Honduran Milksnake, Queretaro Kingsnake, San Diego Gopher Snakes.** Reasonably priced. Also a wide range of hatchling snakes are now available. All specimens offered are in perfect condition and feeding freely. Contact Anne Clegg/Kim Loader on (081) 555 3548 after 6pm.

Amelanistic **Corn Snakes.** £25 each or £45 pair. (0442) 230313.

Male **Boa Constrictor**, aged 2½ years, length four feet. Feeds well on dead rats. Price includes lighted vivarium. £100 ono. Telephone Andrew or Isabelle on (0223) 65367 (Cambridge).

Two pairs of **Honduran Milk Snakes**, tangerine phase. Captive born 15/8/90. Unrelated pairs, feeding well. Would consider exchanging for *Lampropeltis getulus nigritus* or other king or milk snakes or w.h.y. **California King Snakes**, 18 months old. £150 pair. Telephone Les on Stevenage 740561.