



Andrea's Animals
Animal Encounters Policies and Procedures

1.0 Feeding Regimes

1.1 Royal Pythons

- Fed frozen/thawed rats in a size that matches the widest part of the snake.
- Offered to each snake every 14 days.
- Rats are defrosted over a period of 4 hours and warmed to a 'warm to touch' temperature after this in an airtight bag resting in warm water from the tap, not kettle.
- All feeds and feeding attempts to be recorded on care sheets.
- Where cohabiting snakes are to be fed this will be done in separate containers to avoid competitive behaviours.

1.2 Burmese Python

- Fed frozen/thawed rats in a size that matches the widest part of the snake.
- Currently offered every 10 days this will change to every 14 days when the snake reaches maturity.
- Rats are defrosted over a period of 4 hours and warmed to a 'warm to touch' temperature after this in an airtight bag resting in warm water from the tap, not kettle.
- All feeds and feeding attempts to be recorded on care sheets.

1.3 Bearded Dragon

- Fed fresh salad every day and gut loaded crickets or mealworms every three days.
- All feeds and feeding attempts to be recorded on care sheets.

1.4 Tortoise

- Fed fresh dandelion leaves or salad every day.
- All feeds and feeding attempts to be recorded on care sheets.

1.5 Gecko

- Fed twice a week on a combination of ½ tsp Repashy Gecko food mixed with water and a fruit gel pot.
- All feeds and feeding attempts to be recorded on care sheets.

1.6 Snails

- Fed daily on a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, excluding onion.
- Also fish flakes.
- They will also have cuttlefish available at all times.
- All feeds and feeding attempts to be recorded on care sheets.

1.7 Cockroaches

- Fed every other day on a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, excluding onion.

- Also fish flakes.

1.8 Stick Insects

- Fed weekly on fresh bramble leaves from the garden picked and washed before added to enclosures.

1.9 Millipedes

- Fed daily on a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, excluding onion.
- Cuttlefish available at all times.

2.0 Cleaning Regimes

2.1 Royal Pythons

- Tanks are checked for spot cleaning daily, faeces tends to be every 14 days depending on feeding.
- All tanks have a substrate replacement and disinfect every 6-8 weeks. Including equipment.

2.2 Burmese Python

- Tanks are checked for spot cleaning daily, faeces tends to be every 14 days depending on feeding.
- All tanks have a substrate replacement and disinfect every 6-8 weeks. Including equipment.

2.3 Bearded Dragon

- Tank is checked for spot cleaning daily, faeces tends to be every 3 days.
- Tank has a substrate replacement and disinfect every 4-6 weeks. Including equipment

2.4 Tortoise

- Table is checked for spot cleaning daily, faeces tends to be every 2-4 days.
- Table has a substrate replacement and disinfect every 6-8 weeks. Including equipment

2.5 Gecko

- Tank is checked for spot cleaning daily, faeces tends to be every 2-4 days.
- Tank has a substrate replacement and disinfect every 2 weeks. Including equipment

2.6 Snails

- Tank is checked for spot cleaning daily, faeces is often daily.
- Tank has a substrate replacement and disinfect every 2 weeks. Including equipment

2.7 Cockroaches

- Tank is checked for spot cleaning daily, faeces is periodic.
- Tank has a substrate replacement and disinfect every 2 weeks. Including equipment

2.8 Stick Insects

- Tanks build up faeces gradually on the leaves provided to the animals.
- These leaves are replaced weekly. Tanks have a full clean out every week when leaves are replaced. Disinfected every 2 weeks.

2.9 Millipedes

- Tank is checked for spot cleaning daily, faeces is periodic.
- Tank has a substrate replacement and disinfect every 2 weeks. Including equipment.

2.10

- All home based enclosures will be cleaned according to the schedules listed above. Cleaning products may vary but will all be non toxic and enclosures allowed to dry properly before replacing substrate and animals.
- All mobile enclosures will be cleaned after each use with the same cleaning products and allowed to dry naturally before being sealed and safely stored before their next use.
- Cleaning records are maintained on animal care sheets.

3.0 Transportation

3.1 All animals exhibited will be transported in a “hide” style environment containing their natural substrate and accessories to allow them to feel as relaxed as possible between handling and during transportation. The substrate will be sprayed down with clean water when appropriate to allow the correct humidity level to be maintained.

3.2 All transport containers will have lockable seals to prevent escape.

3.3 The car or van used will have heating and air conditioning to allow as much comfort to the animals depending on local weather conditions.

3.4 Animals will be shielded from adverse weather conditions at all times, shaded in the sun and provided a heat source when needed. This will ensure a regular, comfortable temperature and humidity can be maintained at all times.

3.5 Transportation enclosures will be labelled when in use with the animal inside and will be cleaned thoroughly between each use to ensure no cross contamination of biological matter in the event each container is used by another animal.

4.0 Prevention/Control of Disease

4.1 Royal Pythons

- No uneaten food is left in the enclosure for more than four hours.
- The animal will be offered food again at the next scheduled feed time. In the event the food is damaged, for example while striking for the food, a full substrate change will be performed after the animal has had sufficient opportunity to digest its meal.
- These two animals currently share their enclosure, in the event disease is suspected a spare enclosure is available to separate them.

4.2 Burmese Python

- No uneaten food is left in the enclosure for more than four hours.
- The animal will be offered food again at the next scheduled feed time. In the event the food is damaged, for example while striking for the food, a full substrate change will be performed after the animal has had sufficient opportunity to digest its meal.
- The animal is kept in isolation and does not interact with other animals so in the event of disease nothing would be spread to another animal.

4.3 Bearded Dragon

- No uneaten food is left in the enclosure for more than 24 hours, with the exception of live food.

- As fresh vegetables are provided each day and the live food feeds on this there is little to no risk or disease in the live food.

4.4 Tortoise

- No uneaten food is left in the enclosure for more than 12 hours.

4.5 Gecko

- Food is left in enclosure for 3 days and then replaced.
- It is kept moist by the humid environment but as the heat light is turned off at night it allows the substrate to cool down and prevents to growth of bacteria.

4.6 Snails

- No uneaten food is left in the enclosure for more than 12 hours.
- Animals showing any further signs would be isolated from the social group either at home or if necessary at the vet practice.
- It is recommended snails are handled on lettuce leaves to avoid skin to skin contact as they are very capable of absorbing toxins from skin.

4.7 Cockroaches

- No uneaten food is left in the enclosure for more than 12 hours.
- Animals showing any signs would be isolated from the social group either at home or if necessary at the vet practice.

4.8 Stick Insects

- Risk of disease in these animals is minimal.
- To prevent any build up of bacteria the temperature in the enclosures is allowed to drop naturally overnight.

4.9 Millipedes

- Risk of disease in these animals is minimal.
- To prevent any build up of bacteria the temperature in the enclosures is allowed to drop naturally overnight.

4.10 Procedures applicable to all animals

- In the event disease is observed an immediate substrate change will be performed and the animal bathed.
- Animals showing any signs of disease will be isolated at home or if necessary at the vet practice (if kept in social groups).
- All employees and members of the public to sanitise their hands before and after handling each animal.
- Soiled bedding will be put into plastic bin bags and either taken to the local refuse centre or added to the residential bin collection (black bin) which is collected every other Friday. All disposal of this type of waste will be done on a Friday in accordance with bin collection day.

5.0 Health and Welfare of Animals

5.1 Health and wellbeing of the animals is monitored daily. Anything unusual is documented and recorded so appropriate advice or care can be sought at the right time.

5.2 No snake will be housed in an enclosure smaller than 2:1 snake length to perimeter ratio.

5.3 All other animals to be housed in enclosures appropriate to size and social group to prevent distress, encourage natural behaviours and reduce any risk of competitive behaviour.

5.4 Adequate hides, fresh water, enrichment, interaction, exercise and appropriate humidity levels will be maintained and monitored/cleaned regularly.

5.5 All enclosures will be visually inspected daily. Temperature and humidity gauges are in each enclosure and are checked daily to ensure they are at the appropriate levels. When they are not, steps will be taken to adjust these. For example, turning up/down thermostat or spraying with fresh water.

6.0 Death or Escape of an Animal and Emergency care

6.1 All enclosures are stored within my home with a double locking front door so no animals are capable of escaping from the home.

6.2 All cages where appropriate are fitted with locks or security measures to prevent escape. These locks are inspected when the animals are handled and replaced when needed.

6.3 To minimise risk of escaping the doors of all rooms are closed at the end of the day so if an animal did escape it would be limited to one room. This makes any animal far easier to locate and reduces the risk of stress to the animal.

6.4 Upon the death of an animal, depending on the age and behaviour of the animal it would be humanely disposed of or taken to a vet for autopsy to check for disease. It is important I understand the cause of death to ensure the welfare of all of my animals.

6.5 Should the license be revoked or suspended, such care would continue in the same manner. In the event of an emergency, two key holders are available and know the locations of all care sheets to maintain the wellbeing of the animals.

6.6 Under no circumstances will any euthanasia be carried out by anyone other than a licensed veterinarian.

6.7 In the event of a home emergency further information is available in the Emergency Procedures document.