

Reviewed December 2022

Reptiles depend on external heat sources to regulate their body temperature, so supplementary heating is required to create a temperature range.

Typically a basking area is created using a light emitting spot/ceramic heat emitting bulb, providing a basking temperature of ~30-32°C. This should be kept on all day and turned off at night.

Background heat can be provided with a heat mat (on the back wall) a tubular heater, a heat plate or a ceramic bulb. This should be set on a thermostat so that the overnight temperature does not drop below ~20-25°C.

Heat sources should be guarded to prevent thermal burns (see separate handout on heating for

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All reptiles can potentially carry Salmonella. However it is rarely a cause of illness in reptiles and treatment is not required.

It can be transmitted to people (especially young children or those who are immuno-compromised) so good hygiene after handling the reptile is important. Generally washing your hands in soap is sufficient. There are commercially available disinfectants that can be used as an alternative.

ANNUAL HEALTH CHECKS

We recommend annual health checks every year for pet reptiles as medical problems are more easily treated if detected at an early stage