



USARK Code of Ethics

The US Association of Reptile Keepers strives to uphold the highest ethical standards in the keeping, care, breeding and sale of reptiles.

- ❖ **USARK** put the health, well being and safety of these animals as our first consideration.
- ❖ **USARK** maintain that public safety and the safety of the keeper be considered before any actions involving these animals.
- ❖ **USARK** provide clean, well constructed and secure enclosures to house these animals.
- ❖ **USARK** employ strict safety protocols in the housing and handling of these animals.
- ❖ **USARK** object to minors keeping any venomous reptiles, "Big 5" constrictors or crocodylians.
- ❖ **USARK** object to reckless and irresponsible behavior in regards to the keeping, breeding or transfer of reptiles.
- ❖ **USARK** believe it is the personal responsibility of every keeper to educate themselves to the specific requirements of any animal they wish to keep as a prerequisite to ownership.

- ❖ **USARK** consider access to quality medical care, veterinary care, and antivenin a prerequisite to ownership.
- ❖ **USARK** endorse training and mentoring programs necessary to ensure the highest standards of proficiency in working with these animals.
- ❖ **USARK** regards the intentional release of exotic reptiles into the wild irresponsible and believes there are NO circumstances that justify the act.
- ❖ **USARK** are committed to conservation, education and community out reach. Spreading the truth about reptiles is crucial to overcoming cultural bias, negative stereotypes and unsubstantiated fears that threaten the private ownership of these magnificent creatures.