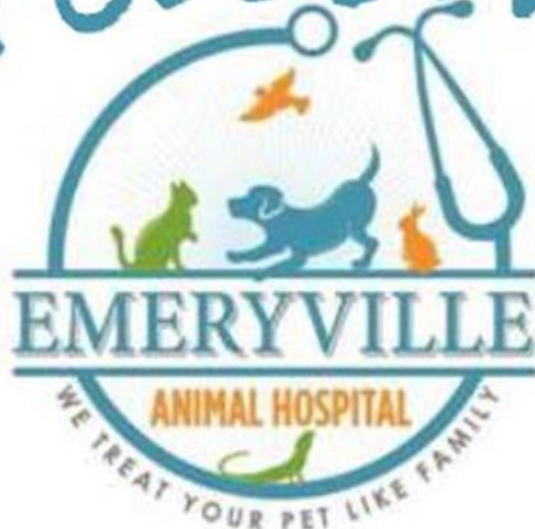


Welcome!



We know that getting a new pet is a joyful and busy time. We have put together this package of vital information to help you navigate the world of pet parenthood.

We are proud to be a partner in your pet's care and happy to offer all of these exciting services:

- Digital X-ray ● In-House Ultrasound ● Complete Lab Services
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- Grooming for Dogs and Cats
- Acupuncture ● Physical Rehabilitation ● Full Surgical Suite

**For more details on our Services please check out our website
www.emeryvilleanimal.com**



Congratulations on adding a reptile or amphibian to your family! We at Emeryville Animal Hospital look forward to helping you make the most out of your years with your new family member!



We'll cover some very basic husbandry in this handout, but due to the variance between species we encourage you to seek specific information from our Veterinarians Dr. Jeun and Dr. Grant, as well as trustworthy sources including www.anapsid.org; www.cvlaval.com; www.merckvetmanual.com; www.lafeber.com; and www.veterinarypartner.com



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How to Handle

Start with a non-threatening environment and clean hands, then approach your pet in a calm and quiet manner, generally from the side and not from overhead. Pick them up, supporting their weight and length, and let them get comfortable on you. If they are squirmy, breathing heavily, scrambling to climb you or in the case of a snake coiling tightly around you, they may be scared, uncomfortable, or simply resent being held. If this is the case, let them rest in their enclosure and try a short session again once they have relaxed.



Your Pet's Environment

As with all animals, reptiles and amphibians deserve and require an appropriate environment be provided to maintain physical and mental health. Enough room must be provided for the animal to move around, thermoregulate, feed, drink, bask, and sleep. In general, active breeds will need more room than lazy breeds of each species. Semi-aquatic species will also need more room to enjoy a pond as well as dry land for basking and sleeping.

You will need to research your species and breed to determine what their natural habitat consists of, and try your best to mimic things like rocks, sand, branches, grass and other live plants, ponds, whether they prefer open space or nooks to hide in, in addition to heating, humidity, and light cycles.

The following dimensions pertain to a single animal being kept in a simply furnished enclosure. Keep in mind that rocks, ponds, branches, bowls, and other furnishing will take up additional space and need to be considered, with 40% of the floor space left free. The dimensions must be increased by one-half for each additional animal housed together, with even more room provided for territorial species.

Lizards

Dimension	Snout to Tail Length
Minimum length (side to side)	2-3 x
Minimum depth (front to back)	1-1.5 x
Minimum height (terrestrial/fossorial)	1-1.5 x
Minimum height (arboreal/scansorial)	1.5-2 x

Snakes

Dimension	Total Length
Minimum length (side to side)	3/4 of total length
Minimum depth (front to back)	1/3 of total length
Minimum height (terrestrial/fossorial)	3/4 of total length
Minimum height (arboreal/scansorial)	1 x total length, max 8 feet

Turtles & Tortoises

Dimension	Carapace Length
Minimum length (side to side)	5 x
Minimum depth (front to back)	3 x
Minimum height	1.5-2 x total length plus 12"

Humidity & Temperature Control

The temperature and humidity ranges for any animal given in articles tells only part of the story. The animal's ecology, how it lives in and uses its environment, is the rest of the story (does your pet enjoy a cooler environment in general, or a warm environment with cool places to retreat? Does your pet enjoy high humidity or just a small retreat with high humidity?). Signs of brumation (resting during cold temperature) and aestivating (resting during warm temperature) include: attempts to burrow away in the coolest place in the enclosure; lethargy; loss of appetite; tonic rigidity or loss of tonicity; long sleep periods; failure to adequately rouse when disturbed; darkening of skin color (lizards).

Snakes or lizards may show signs of poor shedding due to a too dry environment. While increasing the overall humidity is necessary for certain species, it can contribute to adverse health problems from overgrowth of fungus and bacteria. Instead, microclimate pockets of higher humidity (such as humidity retreat boxes) can be provided for most reptiles. For others, a slight increase in overall humidity levels coupled with bathing and spraying may be sufficient.



Heat lights for daytime use include: incandescent bulbs, reptile basking lights, silvered reflecting lights, and infrared heat lamps. Researching your pet will help you decide which light will be most appropriate.

A white or bright light cannot be used for nighttime use. Doing so causes disruption of the animal's sleep cycles and can result in chronic stress, depressed immune function, and behavioral abnormalities. Nocturnal reptile light bulbs produce a dim light.

Get Moving!



Ensuring your pet has adequate exercise will improve their mental health as well as prevent physical problems like muscle wasting. Keeping females in shape is important for healthy reproduction. Some reptiles like iguanas can be trained to walk on harness, turtles and tortoises will enjoy exploring the yard in a secured enclosure, and snakes will enjoy going for swims in shallow pools!

Diet

It is important to recognize when you are feeding a carnivorous, omnivorous, or herbivorous animal, and to provide a complete and balanced diet to fit them. An inappropriate diet puts unneeded stress on their bodies as they try to digest and metabolize substances they are not meant to use.

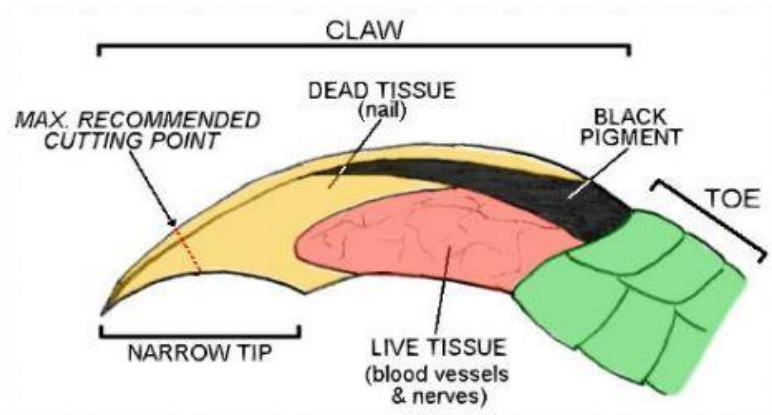
Be consistent with feeding – type of food (balanced diet), feeding time, where the food is placed in the enclosure. If the main diet needs to be changed, do so over a few weeks, slowly adding more new food and less old food. When giving fruits and vegetables, offer a variety shredded and mixed so that your pet does not pick and choose, and miss unique vitamins included in each.

The healthier feeder rodent, arthropod, and insect prey are, the more nutritious they will be. Ground rodent block, tropical fish flakes, chicken egg layer feed, high protein baby cereal and slices of fruit are excellent sources of nutrition. In addition, arthropod and insect prey can be sprinkled with vitamin and calcium supplement powders just prior to feeding out.

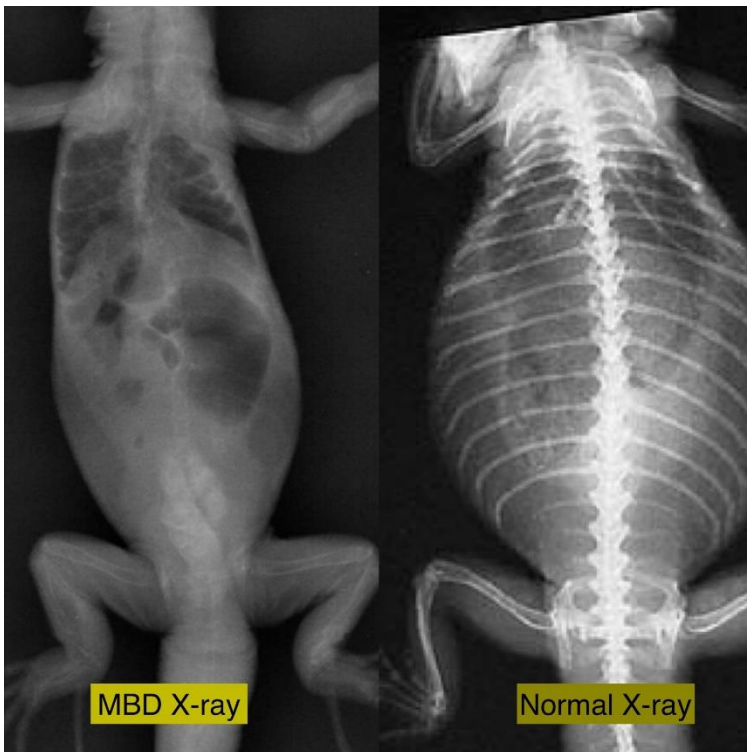


Nail Trims for Pets with Claws

The claw is in two parts - the thicker part extending out from the toe itself, and the thin, pointed, razor-sharp end which comes off the end of the main claw. It is this last bit that gets cut off using cat style nail clippers or ground-down with a Dremel. Keep a styptic powder or cornstarch on hand in case the nail is cut too short and causes the quick to bleed.



Medical Awareness



Metabolic Bone Disease - generally caused by deficient calcium, vitamin D3, or protein, ultraviolet light, or excessive phosphorus or vitamin D3, or a combination of these factors. Swollen limbs and jaws, lameness, partial paralysis, tremors, and pain are common signs. Weight loss is seen when the jaws have become so weakened that eating is difficult.

Reproduction

Retention means the eggs are being retained for some reason other than a blocked oviduct. The most common cause for retention is too little calcium, an essential ingredient in both laying eggs and live births. Other hormones may also be lacking. The various -tocins (such as oxytocin) are given to animals to start contractions in delayed laying but must be done under a vet's supervision as, depending on the reaction, a calcium injection may also be required within an hour or so of the -tocin injection.

Delayed laying is usually due to insufficient serum calcium, requiring one or more injections of calcium or doses of calcium glubionate. Permitting egg laying to go on for more than 24 hours should never be allowed: this is an emergent situation that requires veterinary intervention. Since the most common cause is insufficient calcium, most vets will recommend 5 oral doses of calcium glubionate or an other calcium injection within the next 24 hour period (hours 25-48 after the first egg is laid). If the iguana is still holding eggs, she should be taken to the vet for an exam and consideration of other non-spay methods to get those eggs moving.

Sources of Information

The information in this package was adapted from www.anapsid.org, www.lafeber.com/vet, and www.veterinarypartner.com. These websites are a reliable and informative source to learn from!