

Reptile Hunters

Here I have compiled a list of common and some not so common Terminology and there definitions. I hope you find this helpful, I will update soon with new terminology and definitions.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL WORK HERE IS THAT OF MY OWN, DEFFINITIONS GIVEN ARE THAT OF MY OWN UNDERSTANDING

Aestivate-

To be dormant during the summer or dry season, a trait that is used by many frogs and toads.

Amelanistic-

Lacking all black pigment in colour including the black in the eyes, also known as albino the eyes will generally be orange with a red pupil. Commonly known as amel.

Amplexus-

Mating position used by frogs and some lizards such as Anoles, it involves the male of the species to mounting the female and twisting her until the reproductive organs connect and breeding has finished.

Anerythristic-

Lacking all red pigment in colour. Resulting in black and grey scales sometimes with a touch of yellow. Commonly known as anery.

Aquatic-

To stay in water all of the time except when females come to land to lay eggs a good example of such reptiles is sea turtles such as the Leather Back.

Arboreal-

Species which spends nearly all of its time high up in trees etc. Good examples of these are most Chameleons and Green Tree Python or Emerald Tree Boas although there is many others.

Autonomy-

The ability to drop the tail from the body so as to confuse predators, and the ability to re-grow the tail. Many lizards have this ability but it is mostly the Geckos and Skinks, the tail will grow back but it will never look the same.

Basking-

Is how reptiles get the heat they require to digest their food to provide energy, Basking is usually done on a rock or tree facing the sun.

Basking light-

An artificial light that is used in a reptile's enclosure to mimic the sun, the power of light will depend on the species of reptile you have and the size of the enclosure.

Brumation-

A period similar to hibernation in where the photo period is reduced and the amount of food available is reduced, Brumation is used by reptile breeders to trigger the breeding season, most reptiles will breed in the spring after a period of cooling, each species is different in its Brumation requirements we suggest you do a lot of research before you attempt to re create breeding season.

Calcium Vitamin Supplements-

Powder which is dusted over food, It can be dusted over vegetables and feeder insects and even some for rodents which you would give to your snake. It is required to allow healthy bone growth and in the case of oviparous females it is required for healthy egg development. There are many different brands available we suggest you research on your reptile and pick the supplements best suited for it. If in doubt contact your nearest reptile vet for advice.

Carapace-

This is the name given to the shell that goes over the top of Turtles and Terrapins.

Chelonians-

This is the collective name given to Turtles, Terrapins and Tortoise.

Clutch-

Is the name for a collection of eggs which have been laid.

Constriction-

The method used by most NON venomous snakes, done by wrapping its coils around its prey and squeezing until the preys heart stop beating.

Constrictor-

The name given to NON venomous snakes, such as Boas, Pythons, Colubrids etc...

Crepuscular-

To be active by hours of twilight.

Dewlap-

Extendable scales found on the necks of some lizards predominantly males, such as Anoles and Bearded Dragons, it is commonly used to warn off rivals and to display as sign of dominance to attract a female mate.

Diurnal-

To be active by day.

Ectothermic-

To rely on the surrounding temperatures to heat the body and digest food etc... This is commonly referred to as cold blooded but in fact this inaccurate as during the day a reptile's blood temperature will rise to a level which would kill many mammals.

Faunarium-

A small enclosure made of plastic, ideal for small lizards and young snakes, there are several sizes on the market so make sure you do your research and get the one which is best suited to your reptiles needs.

Feeder insects-

These are insects which are readily available in reptile shops and online, these include Crickets, Locust, Meal worms, Wax worms, lob worms, Fruit flies, roaches, there is vast selection of sizes as well so make sure you do your research in order to ensure your reptile is eating the right sizes.

Flexarium-

A mesh enclosure which is commonly used by Chameleon keepers as they have fantastic ventilation.

Fuzzy Fluff-

A feeder rodent which has been brought on until the hairs have started to grow and small nails have developed.

Gravid-

Term used to describe a pregnant female,

Gut Load-

To feed you feeder insects vegetables and other minerals prior to being fed to your reptile. This is essential if you want to have healthy reptiles. There is tubs of dry and wet bug grub available from reptile stores and online, but as rule we say if the reptile can eat it the insect can eat it don't feed your bugs something you wouldn't feed your reptile.

Habitat-

Used to describe where a reptile would naturally occur.

Heat pad-

A heating element used to heat the enclosure in conjunction with a thermostat. There are many different sizes of pads available the size you will require will depend on the size of your enclosure, its recommend that the heat pad should cover at least half the enclosure but no more than a third of the enclosure.

Hemipenes-

Male reproductive organs. In most cases the males will have two Hemipenes.

Herbnivairus-

Name used to describe a reptile which eats exclusively on plants and vegetables, an example of this is the Green Iguana.

Hermaphrodite-

Having both male and female reproductive organs, such snails and other molluscs.

Herpetology-

The study of reptiles.

Hibernation-

A period of no movement or activity during the winter months.

Hide-

An area or object which your reptile can go and hideaway and feel safe. This can be anything from an artificial cave bought from a reptile store to a up turned plat pot or even just a tub with a hole. Each reptile has different hide needs we recommend you do your research so you can provide a hide which they feel safe in.

Humidity-

Moisture in the air.

Hybrid-

An animal which is the offspring of two different speies.

Hygrometer-

Used to measure humidity (see humidity)

Hypo melanistic-

To lack black pigment but not completely, generally would be a body with little to no black but with black eyes. Common in snakes

Incubation-

Name used to describe the time between the eggs being laid and the eggs hatching.

In Venomation-

The method used by venomous snakes to kill there pray, done by biting the pray and injecting venom through fangs at the front of the mouth,

Insectivore-

Used to describe a reptile which feeds exclusively on insects.

Invertebrate-

Name given to creatures with no proper backbone this is generally replaced with an exo skeleton, such as that in insects.

Litter-

Name given to a group of babies which were not incubated in an egg outside of the mother's body.

Metabolic Bone Disease-

A disease caused by a lack of calcium which attacks the bones causing them to go soft and eventually miss shaped causing lots of problems for your reptile. If left untreated your reptile will eventually die of paralysis. This can be avoided by providing the correct supplements and correct lighting.

Metamorphous-

Used to describe changes in body state, for example when a tadpole changes to a frog it under goes Metamorphous.

Morph-

Used to describe unusual colours and patterns of which are different from what would be found in the wild, Leopard Geckos and many snakes such as the Corn snake have many different morphs.

Neonates-

Name given to born baby reptiles also known as hatchlings.

Nocturnal-

Active by night.

Oviparous-

Name given to female reptiles that lay eggs.

Parthenogenic-

Name used to describe an animal with the ability to reproduce without having mated first, such as in the case of the Komodo dragon.

Photoperiod-

Used to describe the period of light and darkness.

Pineal Eye-

Known as the third eye, seen on many lizards especially the Agamid family, it used to detect over head shadows to allow the lizard to spot prey such as birds flying over head. It is also thought that the Pineal eye is used to determine the photoperiod and trigger breeding,

Pinkie-

A day old mouse, used to feed baby snakes and given as treat to many other reptiles.

Plastron-

The name given to the bottom shell on a Turtle, Terrapin and Tortoise.

Polymorphic-

When colour morphs are common in a species that species would be referred to as being Polymorphic. Such as Leopard Geckos and Corn Snakes.

Pray-

The name given to reptile's food.

Reptile-

An animal which is **ectothermic** also known as cold blooded as well as having either scales or shell. (For more detailed information on what is a reptile see the, what is a reptile info sheet on the care sheets page.)

Scales-

Small water proof pieces of skin that covers a reptile's body.

Semi Aquatic-

The name used to describe an animal which spends time in the water as well as on land for example Crocodiles and many turtles.

Shed-

The process which reptiles under go to remove their old skin, Snakes tend to shed their skin in one go where as some lizards will shed off parts of their skin at a time.

Species-

The name used to describe a collection of one particular reptile for example Python, Gecko, Skink, etc....

Sub caudal Scales-

Scales found on the underside of a snake's tail.

Substrate-

The name given to floorings such as sand, aspen, coco mulch, repti bark etc... There are hundreds of different kinds of substrates we recommend that you research your reptile and use substrate best suited to their needs, a good place to start is by looking at where the reptile would naturally live and try to replicate it.

Terainium-

Name given to an enclosure, generally used to describe a high humidity enclosure which is made of glass, like the sort of enclosure that frogs and salamanders would thrive in.

Terrestrial-

Name used to describe a reptile that usually spends its time on the ground .

Thermometer-

A device that is used to measure temperature, essential when keeping reptiles,

Thermoregulation-

The name given to the process that reptiles use to cool and heat there body, normally done by moving to a hot area or moving to the shade, you may also see a reptile sitting with its mouth open (gaping) this is their way of cooling (Thermo regulating).

Thermostat-

Item used to control the temperature inside the enclosure, Essential when keeping reptiles.

Tri-Nomial-

Name given to a animal with three names (Genus, Species, Subspecies)

UV light-

Light that is naked to the human eye but essential to all Diurnal reptiles and even some nocturnal reptiles, for the growth of bones, each species requires different level of UV lighting we recommend you research your reptile so you can provide the correct lighting,

Vent-

Area at the bottom of the tail, used to defecate, urinate and to reproduce.

Vermiculite-

Incubation medium used for the incubation of many reptile eggs, it is available from reptile stores, over the internet and in garden centres.

Vestigial Spurs-

Small spurs on the side of many Boas and Pythons, more prominent in males, it is believed that these are remains of legs from when snakes evolved.

Vivarium-

Name given to a reptile enclosure, normally the name used for wooden enclosures but it is the common name for all reptile enclosures.

Viviparous-

Name given to a reptile that has live young such as many Boas.

Reptile Hunters