

1: Mother of snakes! | Weird | Pinterest | Weird, Animals and Creatures

The Extremely Weird series with text by Sarah Lovett, provides the most magnificent photos of animals that you will ever find! As a librarian in two urban elementary schools, this book, Reptiles, was part of the most sought-after series by my students.

Share Shares 2K There are about 3,000 species of snakes in the world; since their appearance during the age of dinosaurs they have adapted to many different lifestyles and evolved into many different and often bizarre appearances. I give you ten of the most amazing and unusual snakes in the world. It gets its name from its unusual skin, which is wrinkled and baggy, and gives the impression of being several sizes too large for the snake. They can grow up to 2. Elephant trunk snakes feed on fish, including catfish and eels; they lack venom, so they use constriction to kill prey; their big knobby scales are an adaptation to hold slippery fish and constrict them underwater. Its most notable feature are the strange fleshy tentacles on its snout. These tentacles are actually highly sensitive mechanosensors, which allow the snake to detect movement in the water and strike at any unfortunate fish that swims nearby. But fish have incredible reflexes and a fast strike is not enough sometimes, so the tentacled snake uses a clever trick to make fish swim towards danger. When the fish approaches, the snake slightly ripples its body towards it. The fish immediately darts in the opposite direction but this is what the tentacled snake expected, so it angles its head so that the fish swims directly into its waiting jaws. Of all snakes, this is the only one known to anticipate the reaction of its prey and act accordingly. Although the tentacled snake is venomous, it poses no threat to humans. It is rather small, at only 90 cms long. Just like the Elephant trunk snake, it is fully aquatic and can barely move on land. Above you can see the videos including slow motion of tentacled snakes tricking and feeding on small fish. Its eyes are also unusual in having horizontal, keyhole-shaped pupils. Its vine-like body hides the snake from both predators and prey even the tongue is bright green! They feed mostly on lizards and frogs, and although they are venomous, they pose no serious threat to humans; pain and swelling are usually the only symptoms after being bitten by a vine snake, and the symptoms disappear within a few days. Just like the Asian vine snake, the Langaha snake also known as the leaf-nosed snake is adapted to an arboreal lifestyle and feeds mostly on lizards. It is venomous and its bite can be extremely painful to humans but not life-threatening. Atheris vipers grow up to 75 cms long, with males being longer than females unusual among snakes. Like all vipers, Atheris has long, retractable fangs in the front of its upper jaw; there is no known antidote to its venom, which causes blood clotting difficulties, pain and swelling, and often, death. Fortunately, these vipers usually live far away from human settlements, and therefore Atheris bites are exceedingly rare. They often have a pair of horns over the eyes, but there are also some individuals that lack them completely, and, therefore, can be easily mistaken for other vipers. They are venomous, but their bite is usually non fatal to humans. When threatened they rub their coils together to produce a warning sound before they strike. Cerastes was a mythical Greek monster, a serpent that hid under the sand in the desert and ambushed any passing creature, using its horns as a lure. Ironically, the horned viper itself may have been the real life inspiration for the mythical Cerastes! Indeed, the horned viper hunts by hiding under the sand leaving only its horns, eyes and nose exposed and striking at any small animal mostly rodents and lizards that comes close. However, no list on Unusual Snakes would be complete without this one. The Burrowing Asp is a smallish snake from Africa that spends most of its time underground. It feeds on rodents, and has enlarged fangs that function basically as venomous saberteeth, protruding out of the mouth when in use. Burrowing asps are venomous and there are cases of children dying after a bite; however, in adult humans the venom is usually not lethal. It is small, rarely exceeding one meter in length, and very shy, so much in fact that they were considered to be harmless for a long time, until someone died of a yamakagashi bite in the 80s. Fortunately, due to their docile temperament, these snakes are very unlikely to bite and fatalities remain exceedingly uncommon. They feed mostly on frogs and toads. Other than their bright colors, Tiger Keelbacks look kind of normal; however, they have a very interesting defense mechanism. This amazing adaptation not only protects the snake from most predators, but also allows it to save its own venom for hunting instead of wasting it on something too big to eat! They are, however,

accomplished gliders. When a Flying Snake wants to go from one tree to another, it launches itself into the air while flaring out its ribs and sucking in its stomach, thus flattening and widening its body and turning into a pseudo-concave wing. As amazing as it may sound, Flying Snakes are even better gliders than flying squirrels. Flying snakes are venomous, but not dangerous to humans. They feed mostly on lizards and other small animals, and spend most of their time up trees. They belong to the same family as cobras and coral snakes Elapidae , but they have adapted to a completely marine lifestyle; in some species, the adaptations are simply incredible. Fortunately, sea snakes are usually docile and human fatalities are exceedingly rare. As a result, they have practically lost the broad scales on their belly, which other snakes use to move on land, and most sea snakes are completely helpless out of the water. Some species are indeed so well adapted to the sea, that they can even absorb oxygen directly from the water, through their skin! One sea snake species known as the Yellow Lipped Sea Krait has a yellow body, a black head and a rounded, black tail that looks just like the head. But perhaps the most amazing sea snake is the Golden Sea Snake. This species has photoreceptors on its tail, allowing it to detect light variations and possibly detect approaching predators while feeding as previously described. Where will evolution take Sea Snakes next? We still have a lot to learn about them, but even what we know is enough to earn them the first spot in this list.

2: 21 More Weird Animals You Didn't Know Exist | Bored Panda

Reptiles elicit a mixed response from people. Symbolic of the primeval, these creatures offer a feeling of connection to the dinosaur age. Ranging from powerful and dangerous to garishly colored and cute, reptiles offer amazing examples of animal diversity and adaptation.

But, this seemingly ordinary lizard is known for a far more macabre behavior. When a horned lizard feels threatened, it can actually squirt a stream of blood out of its eyes up to a distance of five feet! This serves to surprise and disgust predators and hopefully keep the horned lizard from being eaten. This is because it means you must put the lizard under extreme stress as this behavior is sort of a last ditch effort by the lizard to save its own life. Desert Horned Lizards are available for sale on the Backwater Reptiles website. In fact, you can tell just by looking at this frog that it is unusual. As far as physical appearance is concerned, the Surinam toad is extremely flat with beady little eyes and it resembles a leaf. Aside from its bizarre physical appearance, the Surinam toad sprouts fully formed froglets from its back! In addition to looking very outlandish, the Surinam toad has some bizarre reproductive habits. Rather than laying eggs like most amphibians, the Surinam toad hatches its babies from the skin in its back! Eventually, fully formed froglets will hatch from the honeycombed skin. Backwater Reptiles has strange-looking Surinam toads for sale. Toad Head Agama *Phrynocephalus mystaceus* These lizards appear pretty normal at first glance. They resemble a cross between a bearded dragon and a horned lizard with pug-like faces. However, if you make a toad head agama angry, they unfold skin flaps on the sides of their head to appear threatening. We think this bizarre defense mechanism alone gives good reason for these lizards to make our list of weirdest adaptations. Backwater Reptiles sells healthy toad head agamas. First of all, this is one grumpy looking frog. Not only is it squat, and flat-faced with a balloon-like body, but its feet point inwards which we think makes it resemble a bulldog. When it walks, the rain frog is pigeon-toed and the resulting waddle is quite comical. In other words, instead of croaking, rain frogs emit a high pitched squeak or squeal akin to that of a kitten mewling for its mother. Interested in a pet Mozambique rain frog? Buy one from Backwater Reptiles. Egg Eating Snake *Dasypeltis* sp. Even though physically, the egg eating snake appears very ordinary, it possesses an adaptation that is just bizarre enough to land it on our list. As its name suggests, the egg eating snake does in fact, consume eggs for meals. Egg eating snakes only consume whole eggs as food. These species of snakes swallow eggs whole, which is quite a feat in our opinion. Once the egg has been swallowed, the snake uses muscles and bony protrusions on its spine to crush the egg and suck out the liquid inside. Conclusion Each of the animals on this list possesses at least one unique or strange behavior or adaptation that we find endearing. We also think each of these critters make good pets!

3: Extremely Weird Reptiles (February 20, edition) | Open Library

Extremely Weird Reptiles talks about the physical features of 15 different reptiles and their unique appearances and behaviors. Each two page spread introduces you to a new critter with a larger than life image of said reptile on the right hand side, and a thorough write up of it on the left. The.

Their behaviors and physical attributes cover a broad spectrum, which is one of the reasons we humans find them so fascinating. There are a lot of myths and misunderstandings about reptiles these days, but thankfully not nearly as many as in the past. Today, we know more about reptiles than we ever have, and this knowledge has brought to light many interesting facts about these creatures and their lives. This article is a good example of the amazing diversity of reptiles. Below, I have compiled what I feel are some of the most interesting facts about the reptiles of the world. Some of these are facts about reptiles in general, while other are facts about particular species within the class Reptilia.

Interesting Reptile Facts 1. There are more than 8,000 species of reptiles on the planet, and they live on every continent except Antarctica where it is too cold. Their blood is not necessarily cold by itself. But they are ectothermic, which means they get their body heat from external sources. Reptiles cannot regulate their body temperature internally as humans do. Reptiles are among the longest-lived species on the planet. For example, large tortoises such as the Aldabra tortoise can live for more than 100 years. Alligators can live nearly 70 years. Ball pythons, a popular type of pet snake, can live up to 40 years consider that before getting one as a pet. Only about 10% of snake species are venomous, and of those only 30 - 40 are considered harmful to humans. In other words, less than 2 percent of all snakes are considered harmful to humans. With regard to reptile fact 4 above, the opposite is true in Australia. There are actually more venomous snakes in Australia than non-venomous snakes. The inland taipan is one of the most popular of these venomous Australian snakes. Australia is the only continent where venomous snakes outnumber non-venomous snakes. It is a fact that more Americans die each year from bee stings than from snake bites. Certain types of snakes can go months without eating. This is especially true of the big constrictors, such as the Anaconda and the reticulated python. Snakes eat large meals relative to their body size, and they have much slower metabolisms than we humans have. This partly explains how they can go so long between meals. Want more interesting facts about reptile species? Most kinds of reptiles do not tolerate the cold very well. Snakes and lizards flick their tongues in the air to capture scent particles. This is partly how reptiles hunt for food. True to its name, the African egg-eating snake of the genus *Dasypeltis* prefers to dine on the eggs of other animals. It will swallow the egg whole, and then use tiny "spikes" extending internally from its spine to crack the egg open and swallow the nutritious contents. Lastly, it will regurgitate the unneeded egg shell in a neatly folded piece. Contrary to popular belief, chameleons do not change their color to blend in with different backgrounds. Chameleons are naturally camouflaged with their surroundings most are predominantly green to match their treetop environment. The fact is that chameleons change their color in limited ways, usually by brightening or darkening their skin. But these color changes are related to temperature regulation and emotional changes. A frightened or angry chameleon, for example, will become extremely bright in color. The skulls of snakes are made up of many small bones that are interconnected in a flexible fashion. This is entirely different from a human skull, which is one solid piece. This allows snakes to expand their jaws and heads in order to eat prey items larger than their heads. A common garter snake, for example, could swallow a frog more than twice the size of its head. Large constrictors such as the anaconda can expand their jaws to an almost alarming degree! Many people think that reptiles are slimy. But the fact is that reptiles do not have sweat glands like you and I have, so their skin is usually cool and dry. I have several pet snakes for example, and people who touch them for the first time always say the same thing: The scales of all snakes and many lizard species are made of keratin, which is the same substance that makes up the hair and fingernails of humans. Snakes shed their skin in relation to their growth rate. A young snake will shed more often because they typically grow fastest during the first two years of their lives. An older snake will shed less often as its rate of growth slows down. While reticulated pythons typically grow longer, the anaconda could be considered the largest snake by overall size and weight. The anaconda is a heavy-bodied snake and can weigh well over

pounds. Learn more about types of big snakes. While the reticulated python and anaconda are the largest snakes in general, the king cobra is by far largest of the venomous snakes. It can grow to lengths of more than 18 feet 6 meters can weigh in excess of 20 pounds. I told you there were a lot of cool facts about reptiles worth knowing. And this only scratches this surface. Some species of gecko use their tails as a defensive tool. When attacked, the gecko will wiggle its tail to lure the attacking creature. When the animal bites onto the tail, the gecko can detach the tail and make its escape. In most cases, a new tail will grow in place of the old one. Most snake species lay eggs. But about one-fifth of all snakes bear live young instead. Rattlesnakes and boa constrictors are examples of snakes that bear live young. Many states such as Georgia and Texas still engage in "rattlesnake roundups," in which rattlesnakes are gathered from the wild and slaughtered by the hundreds. These activities are mostly practiced by ignorant rednecks who think that rattlesnakes are somehow evil or malicious. Eventually one can hope , such practices will be outlawed Reptiles are the oldest type of animal on the planet. Turtles, for example, have been on the planet for more than million years, in basically the same form as we see them today. For this reason and many more, reptiles deserve respect from us humans. They do not deserve fear or persecution! These 21 interesting facts about reptiles merely scratch the surface. I could just as easily have expanded this list to be 50 interesting facts or even But the point of this article is merely to give you a glimpse into the fascinating world of reptiles and, hopefully, pique your curiosity that you conduct further research into the subject.

4: Mole and Worm Lizards: Weird and Interesting Reptiles | Owlcation

of 17 results for "extremely weird reptiles" *Extremely Weird Reptiles Feb 20, by Sarah Lovett and Mary Sundstrom. Paperback. \$ \$ 29*

Linda Crampton is a writer and teacher with an honors degree in biology. She loves to study nature and write about animals and plants. These are two Iberian worm lizards and not blue earthworms. Source Reptiles That Look Like Earthworms Mole and worm lizards are strange, mainly subterranean reptiles that look a lot like earthworms. They have elongated bodies that appear to be segmented. Worm lizards have no legs and even move like earthworms. Mole lizards have small forelegs but no hind legs. Both types of reptiles have tiny eyes. They live in burrows, which they dig themselves, and are primarily carnivorous. Mole and worm lizards are vertebrates, unlike earthworms. They belong to the class Reptilia and the order Squamata. This order also contains snakes and lizards. Despite their names, however, mole and worms lizards are technically amphisbaenians instead of lizards. They are unusual reptiles with unique characteristics and belong to different families from other members of the order Squamata. World distribution of amphisbaenians, the group of reptiles that includes mole lizards and worm lizards Source The amphisbaenia was a mythological creature in Ancient Greek culture that had a head at each end of its body. In its earliest form it was snake-like and venomous. Mole Lizards Mole lizards belong to the family Bipedidae in the order Squamata. There are three species or four, according to some scientists, all belonging to the genus *Bipes* and living in Mexico. They are the only amphisbaenians with legs. Two examples are *Bipes canaliculatus*, or the four-toed mole lizard, and *Bipes biporus*, or the Mexican mole lizard. Although at first glance a mole lizard appears to have rings like those of an earthworm, if we look closely we can see that the rings consist of scales instead of smooth skin. The rings are known as annuli, as in earthworms. Mole and worm lizards have a backbone and their internal organs are more advanced than those of an earthworm. X-rays show vestigial back legs under the skin. The toes on the front legs have claws. This behaviour gives the animal its name. Amphisbaenians are intriguing animals that are often hard to study because they live mainly underground. In addition, worm lizards are small in size, which makes their features difficult to examine. There is still much that is unknown about the animals. It has five toes on each foot, however, and is pale pink in colour instead of pale blue. The animal can be seen in the opening screen of the video below. The mole lizard can be seen in the second half of the video. Some people describe the Mexican mole lizard as being "cute" or "adorable", which are unusual descriptions for a reptile. The small legs, the blunt-tipped head with tiny eyes, and the somewhat awkward movements of the legs on land do give the animal a slightly babyish appearance, as can be seen in the first video of the four-toed mole lizard. It lives underground and generally comes to the surface only during the night or when the soil is very wet on a dull day. The female produces one to four eggs in summer, which hatch after about two months. There are approximately species of amphisbaenian, contained within 24 well-established genera. The position of these genera at the family-level, however, has been the subject of scientific debate. The surprising appearance of a forked tongue flicking in and out of its mouth tells us that a worm lizard is really a reptile, however. The internal anatomy of worm lizards is similar to that of other reptiles and is very different from that of an earthworm. Unlike earthworms, worm lizards and other amphisbaenians have a backbone and lungs, for example, as well as a more advanced heart, brain, and nervous system. They also have teeth inside their mouth. The right lung is reduced in size or even absent to accommodate the narrow, elongated shape of the body. In legless lizards and snakes, the left lung is reduced in size instead of the right lung. Worm lizards are sometimes known as two-headed snakesâ€”just like the mythical amphisbaenia from Ancient Greeceâ€”because their head and their tail look quite similar. The Black and White Worm Lizard *Amphisbaena fuliginosa* is also known as the black and white or the speckled worm lizard. It lives in the rain forests of South America and the Caribbean. This means that its body is adapted for digging and travelling underground. It has poor vision but is able to detect chemicals and vibrations. The reptile is a nocturnal animal. It catches its prey underground and also visits the surface to hunt. It has a carnivorous diet and feeds chiefly on insects, spiders, and centipedes. The animal reproduces by laying eggs and is therefore said to be

oviparous. Although the word "hemipenes" is generally used in the plural, the structure actually consists of one trunk that splits into two upper lobes. There is considerable variation in the species, which has led some scientists to say that it should really be separated into two different species. Like other amphisbaenians, the Iberian worm lizard lives underground, builds burrows, and feeds mainly on insects and insect larvae. The animal is pink, brown, or blue in colour. The Iberian worm lizard has been studied in more depth than many other amphisbaenians. Researchers have discovered that this animal and perhaps its relatives can control its temperature by changing its location underground. It moves into deeper and cooler soil when it gets too hot. On the other hand, it moves underneath rocks when it becomes too cold. The eyes can detect differences in light intensity but not images. The animal has a very good ability to detect the presence of certain chemicals, however. Like snakes and true lizards, a worm lizard picks up chemicals from the air with its flicking tongue and then deposits them in ducts in the roof of its mouth. These ducts lead to the vomeronasal organ in the head, which detects the chemicals. Iberian worm lizards can tell the difference between prey and non-prey animals by the different chemicals released by the animals. They also seem to be able to differentiate between predators and non-predators by the chemicals that are released. Male and female worm lizards secrete and detect pheromones, which are chemicals that attract the opposite gender and play an important role in mating. Specimens occasionally come above the surface after heavy rains inundate their relatively shallow tunnels. Gardening practices such as plowing also bring them to the surface. Franklin with reference to the Florida worm lizard *The Florida Worm Lizard Rhineura floridana* Although there are no wild mole lizards living in North America, there is one worm lizard on the continent. It lives in Florida and is appropriately called the Florida worm lizard. Little is known about the biology of this animal. Like its relatives, the Florida worm lizard spends most of its time underground. Scientists believe that it feeds on insects. The mouth of the Florida worm lizard looks as though it has an overbite. The lower jaw is recessed, which helps to stop sand from entering its mouth. As in many other amphisbaenians, its skin looks too big for its body and is only loosely attached to it. Population Status of Amphisbaenians Amphisbaenians are fascinating and somewhat bizarre animals. There is a great deal that still needs to be learned about them, including many aspects of their behaviour, their evolutionary relationship with other reptiles, and their population size. There may be still more types to discover. The population size of only a few species has been assessed. Hopefully, more information about the different amphisbaenians will be obtained soon. They are strange animals that are definitely worth studying. Franklin, a scientist who studies the animals. Morphology of the hemipenes of amphisbaenia is described in a free abstract from ResearchGate.

5: 11 Really Weird Snakes | Mental Floss

Extremely Weird Reptiles by Sarah Lovett, February 20, , John Muir Publications edition, Paperback in English.

If you know of a super weird lizard that should be on this list, please comment below! The weird thing about this lizard, besides the armor of spikes, is they present a false head. When threatened, the thorny dragon tucks its head between its legs and shows a false head! If that fails, most predators will have a hard time swallowing all those sharp spikes.

Gila Monster The Gila Monster is riddled in mystery.

Horned Lizard This weird lizard is a jack-of-all-trades when it comes to staying alive. Should a predator still choose to attack, the horned lizard runs in very quick, short bursts then stops suddenly to throw off anything chasing it. These lizards can glide up to feet.

There are over types of chameleons, yet this one sticks out among the rest. They have a dermal flap which runs the length of their body. When positioned correctly, the edges of the flap contrast with the edges of its environment, giving a shadow effect which helps blend in with their background. Aside from their dermal flap, their coloration and flaky appearance is perfect for matching their surroundings. Their maximum length, including their tail, is 1.

Frilled Lizard Closely tied for first place among the weirdest lizards in the world, the Frilled Lizard looks like something straight out of Jurassic Park. They sport a circular flap of frills around their neck, which is used during mating rituals and as a defense mechanism. They are such an iconic lizard, they were once featured on the Australian two-cent coin which is no longer in circulation. When they are on the move, they run on their back two legs, letting their upper legs flap in the wind.

Armadillo Girdled Lizard This is one of the weirdest, yet coolest lizards in Africa. By rolling into a ball they increase their chances of surviving an attack as they quickly become unappealing or hard-to-eat. This is a very weird behavior!

6: Weirdest Reptile Adaptations and Behaviors

Get this from a library! Extremely weird reptiles.. [Sarah Lovett] -- Describes a variety of reptiles, including the Jackson's chameleon, snake-necked turtle of Australia, and eyelash pit viper.

Share Shares Reptiles are often stereotyped as cold-blooded, emotionless, and dangerous. The concept of hierarchy or any type of a social life may also be a foreign thought to the budding reptile admirer. But a brief look at the Yacare caiman will soon correct that. Yacare caimans are small crocodylians that inhabit open rivers in the Amazon region. During the breeding season, male caimans engage in complex dance routines in the river. These water aerobics serve to establish dominance and order. The unique gavials of India possess an astoundingly long, needlelike snout and multitudes of sharp teeth. Gavials have never been responsible for any human casualties, as their bite is extremely weak, and their demeanor is far less aggressive than the typical hunting crocodylian. Gavials may appear to be extremely creepy, or even comical at times. Unfortunately, the animals are highly endangered as a result of preventable causes, including poaching, siltation, and water contamination. The traits are truly bizarre, but fortunately, there is no human danger from these snakes. Crocodiles take especially good care of their young, protecting them as well as any mammal would. Humans may also find themselves on the receiving end of crocodylian benevolence in exceptional circumstances. Poncho, an American crocodile, was found and rescued by a fisherman in Costa Rica. Over the following years, the man developed a relationship with the crocodile, which not only recognized him, but swam with him, performed tricks, and refused to harm him in any way. However, careful examination will reveal a more lizard-like head, ear openings behind the eyes, or longitudinal stripes—all traits of lizards, rather than snakes. Some legless lizards may grow to great lengths—over one meter three feet in some cases. The creatures hunt a wide range of prey and compensate for a lack of walking ability and lack of venom with a rather powerful bite. However, this change was likely spurred on by environmental pressures and natural selection—limblessness offered an advantage. More advanced snake species like vipers lack any remaining vestigial limbs. However, more primitive serpents like constrictors retain a pelvic girdle. This still supports small leg bones and tiny claws. This is the same type of material found in human fingernails. The horns are used in rivalry disputes and displays in a manner similar to rams. A wise animal would just stay clear. However, by thrashing through the vegetation and trampling down water plants, the alligators create sizable pools that remain flooded during the dry season. These areas attract quantities of fish and also provide open access points where the birds can hunt without impeding vegetation. But contrary to the popular stereotypes, a small constrictor species of the Boidae family inhabits select areas of British Columbia in Western Canada. Its range extends over halfway to the Alaskan border. The rubber boa may grow to well over 0. The rubber boa has some ability to regulate its own temperature, which is rare in reptiles. The creature looks much like a miniature anaconda or boa constrictor, but the tail is thickened, slightly resembling a second head. This may serve to confuse potential predators and prey items alike. Rubber boas seize a variety of small animals as prey, and incredibly, may live up to 70 years. The dome-shaped, land-based chelonians are frequently referred to as tortoises. These differences explained, the entire group boasts some exceedingly odd traits. Odder still is the lack of a diaphragm for breathing. As a result, turtles cannot cough, making them vulnerable to infection. Vocal cords are absent, but hissing and bellowing sounds can be produced by air pressure in many species. Finally, certain species attract their prey by using their tongue as a wormlike lure. These ancient creatures offer a true multitude of novel and bizarre characteristics. Ron Harlan investigates the mysteries of nature and the bizarre findings that often crop up on this planet. Contact Ron for content writing services.

7: Waxing Paleontological: Very Specific Strange Reptiles

All reptiles are ectothermic animals, that is, they depend on their outside environment for body heat.

Here are the common illnesses of snakes, in alphabetical order.

Mouth abscess Abscesses Abscesses are generally caused by a previous injury that gets infected by bacteria. An abscess usually appears as a lump that protrudes from underneath the skin and sometimes extends into the internal organs. Abscesses are commonly confused with tumors, un-laid eggs, or constipation. Leave it to an experienced vet to determine whether the lump is truly an abscess. If it is, let the veterinarian treat it, which tends to involve lancing and draining the abscess, with at least one follow-up appointment for cleaning and changing the dressing. The vet may also opt to treat the abscess with an antibiotic.

Blister Disease Blister disease can be avoided with proper husbandry. Fluid-filled blisters will usually form on the underside of a snake housed in a dirty, moldy, or overly moist substrate. Blisters may be few at first, but then quickly grow in number and become life-threatening, especially if they spread near the mouth, nose, or cloaca. The best treatment is to prevent blister disease from developing. Keep the substrate clean and dry. Make sure to remove feces and urates. Change the bedding frequently. You can treat one or two blisters at home by sterilizing a needle and piercing the blister; use a clean cotton swab or a bandage to absorb the fluid. Make sure to swab the blisters twice a day with betadine or hydrogen peroxide, and apply an antibiotic ointment. House the snake in a quarantine tank on paper towels until the blisters have healed. If there are multiple blisters, or the blisters are in sensitive areas, consult a reputable vet as soon as possible.

Constipation Depending on the size of your snake and his metabolism rate, it may take longer than you expect for him to complete the digestion process, but if you notice that his defecation schedule is way off, your snake may be constipated. A constipated snake may appear bloated and lethargic and have a decreased appetite. Built-up feces can become so impacted that surgery may be the only option to keep the snake from dying. Your snake may have ingested a foreign object which could be blocking him from defecating.

Rat bite Cuts and Abrasions Treat any type of cut on your snake just as you would on yourself. Keep it clean and put a small dab of antibiotic ointment once a day until the wound has healed. You can try to bandage the snake, although this may be nearly impossible; you may want to consider a waterproof band-aid. Not all cuts need a bandage. Set the snake up in a quarantine tank with paper towels so that nothing can irritate the wound. Try to find out what cut the snake, so that you can prevent it from happening again. The other common cause of a cut or abrasion is rat bite, so switch to frozen feeders or pre-killed food. It is only found in the boid family, and most common in Burmese pythons and boa constrictors. If you think that your snake has IBD, isolate it immediately and consult a reptile vet as soon as possible. This illness is just one of many reasons to quarantine new snakes for at least 90 days. A snake can pick up internal parasites from its prey or from contact with another infected reptile. This is another great reason to quarantine new individuals. Common signs of internal parasites include regurgitation, lack of appetite, and an overall unwell appearance. If you think that your snake has parasites, take a fecal sample to your vet. He may prescribe a treatment or refer you to an over-the-counter worm treatment for cats and dogs.

Two ticks around a wound Mites and Ticks Mites will appear as tiny, fast-moving dots on the outside of your snake and within his enclosure, and can be either red, black, or white. Getting rid of mites is a bit complicated. Soak the snake in a warm bath for a few hours, or until you are sure that all the mites have fallen off and drowned. While you wait, completely disinfect the enclosure and everything that you had inside it. You may have to do this a few times before you are able to successfully get rid of the mites. The safest way of removing ticks is to smear petroleum jelly thickly over the entire tick, especially the head, as this will suffocate it enough to make it let go of the snake.

Regurgitation Regurgitation is commonly caused by stress, handling too soon after a meal, improper husbandry, or an undiagnosed illness. Wait at least two days after feeding your snake before you try to handle it; moving it from a feeding cage to its permanent cage is fine, but do nothing else. Make sure that your snake has a nice warm spot to lie in after eating, to aid digestion; low temperatures can cause regurgitation. Food that is too large is also commonly regurgitated, so make sure not to feed prey items that are larger than the girth of the snake. If you think that your snake may have some other illness, take him to a vet. Retained eyecap

Respiratory Illness For the most part, respiratory illnesses can be prevented as long as you follow proper husbandry requirements and provide a clean, warm, stress-free environment. But, if you notice signs of coughing, wheezing, open-mouth breathing, runny nose, clicking noises when breathing, and lethargy, a respiratory illness may be the cause.

Shedding Problems Retained Eyecaps or Tail When there are shedding concerns, usually hydration is the problem. If the snake is not properly hydrated he may suffer retained skin on his eyecaps or tail. Make sure that you raise the humidity at the first sign that your snake is going to shed. Some snakes will always have shedding problems, because they require a dry environment or because of an old injury. When these snakes shed, check the skin to make sure that it all came off in one piece. If the tip of the tail is not shed, it can restrict blood flow and the tail may need to be amputated. So if the tip of the tail is still stuck after a few sheds, you need to remove it. You also need to make sure that the eyecaps were properly shed, as retained eyecaps can cause infection. Usually, if the snake retains his eyecaps during one shed, they will come off on the next shed, but that is not always the case. To remove an eyecap, you can take a piece of tape and remove most of its stickiness by pressing it onto a clean surface and removing it over and over again. You may want to moisten the eyecap with a dab of water or mineral oil first.

Mouth rot Stomatitis Stomatitis, more commonly referred to as mouth rot, is pretty common among captive reptiles. You want to keep the bacteria in the enclosure to a minimum so to prevent infection, so make sure to clean the entire enclosure regularly, provide fresh water, and eliminate any source of injury to the mouth or the surrounding area. Please be aware that the advice in this article should in no way replace that of a licensed veterinarian. The methods outlined above may or may not work for your pet. If you have any concerns, you should consult a specialized reptile veterinarian. It is not meant to substitute for diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, prescription, or formal and individualized advice from a veterinary medical professional. Animals exhibiting signs and symptoms of distress should be seen by a veterinarian immediately.

8: 10 Unusual and Amazing Snakes - Listverse

Welcome to our list of the world's Top 10 Weirdest Lizards! We've done our research and assembled this list in personal opinion. If you know of a super weird lizard that should be on this list, please comment below!

The name really says nothing about its members, the similarly newly-minted Azendohsauridae and the longstanding Trilophosauridae. These are archosauromorphs that sit well outside of the Ornithodira-Crurotarsi divide, and are instead related to such eclectic animals as rhynchosaurs and protosaurs. Several decades later, disarticulated postcranial remains discovered at the holotype site suggested that either Azendohsaurus was not a dinosaur at all or that taphonomic processes had mixed the holotype skull—still possibly a dinosaur—and the postcranial remains, which were definitely NOT from a dinosaur. Unambiguously associated cranial and postcranial material would be necessary to determine the true identity of Azendohsaurus. John Flynn and colleagues discovered a monotypic bonebed of an animal that matched up quite well with the Moroccan holotype skull. The authors named and described their new animal as Azendohsaurus madagaskarensis and determined that it was not a dinosaur—far from it, in fact. The authors eventually found it to be outside of Archosauriformes while noting its many features convergent with prosauropods. While a description of the postcranial material was outside the scope of Flynn et al. The skull of Azendohsaurus madagaskarensis Nesbitt et al. It paints a picture of a large-bodied quadruped with a long neck and surprisingly robust pectoral girdle. The feet are of similar construction, with large claws on each toe. A phylogenetic analysis placed Azendohsaurus as a sister taxon to a group containing Trilophosaurus, Spinosuchus, and Teraterpeton but read on. It is this large clade—Pamelaria plus those other guys—that constitutes the Allokotosauria "strange reptiles". While I was waiting in the Seattle airport to board my plane to Calgary for SVP this year, a new azendohsaurid was described—Shringasaurus indicus. Another Indian form, Shringasaurus is known from another large monotypic bonebed featuring animals of many different ages. In general, it looks similar to Azendohsaurus with one big caveat: You can actually line up frontals from young to old animals and watch the horns grow. Surprisingly, one pair of frontals in the bonebed, while the same size and shape of the horned frontals, completely lacks horns. The authors cite this as evidence of sexual dimorphism. A full skeletal reconstruction of Azendohsaurus madagaskarensis. Generally speaking, azendohsaurids were large-bodied quadrupeds with long necks and small heads equipped with spatulate teeth. They look like the group of animals that sauropodomorphs evolved from in some alternate universe. They were around during the Middle-Late Triassic, so they may have lived alongside their dinosaurian counterparts for a little while. The reconstructed skeletal and selected elements of Shringasaurus indicus. Geographically speaking, azendohsaurids were, before this year, limited to Gondwannaland: Madagascar, India, and Morocco. Madagascar and India were still joined together during the Triassic, but Morocco was a fair distance away. I got the feeling it was the Vanleavea of allokotosaurs. I eagerly await the paper. Trilophosaurus buettneri and T. In , Spielmann et al. They have lots of material to work with—Trilophosaurus is apparently quite common. Two other animals have been flip-flopping around the Trilophosauridae for awhile now—Teraterpeton hrynewichorum and Spinosuchus caseanus. Its namesake comes from the distinctive teeth that fill its mouth. The teeth are narrow front-to-back but quite wide and only appear in the maxillae and dentary. Azendohsaurs are especially fascinating to me, evolving in the sauropodomorph direction long before sauropodomorphs existed. They were probably the largest herbivores in their ecosystems and could go after food too high for their neighbors. Both groups disappeared certainly prior to the Early Jurassic. I imagine azendohsaurs were outcompeted by their dinosaur mimics, the sauropodomorphs, and trilophosaurs may have simply been an unlucky casualty of the Triassic-Jurassic extinction event that cleared the way for dinosaurs to take over.

9: 18 Weird and Most Rarest Reptiles in The World - Archives

Reptiles are often stereotyped as cold-blooded, emotionless, and dangerous. But there's more than meets the eye with our scaly friends, and upon further examination, they aren't always what they appear. We generally imagine reptile breeding to be a relatively dull affair—those of us who.

Twitter The estuarine, or saltwater, crocodile *Crocodylus porosus* is found throughout the tropical regions of Asia and the Pacific. The Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary in Orissa State, India, houses four measuring more than 6m 19 ft 8 in in length, the largest being over several unauthenticated reports of specimens up to 10 m 33 ft in length. Adult males average 4. Smallest Chelonian Of all the chelonians-turtles, tortoises and terrapins-the smallest is the speckled cape tortoise or speckled padloper *Homopus signatus*. It has a shell length of It had been on display at the Marseille Natural History Museum in France for more than a century before, in , it was recognized by curator Alain Delcourt as representing a species unknown to science. The gecko was formally named and described in Longest Reptilian Incubation Period Of all the egg-laying reptiles the tuataras have to keep their eggs warm the longest before they are ready to hatch. Scientists have recorded tuataras incubating eggs for as long as 13 to 15 months before their offspring emerge from their shells. Largest Crocodile Eggs Read more: Despite its name, recent studies have shown that the false gharial is more closely related to other gharials than crocodiles and alligators. Largest Venomous Lizard Measuring up to 3. In , researchers at Melbourne University, Australia, discovered that the reptile also possesses a pair of venom glands in its lower jaw that secretes a venom containing several different toxic proteins. Native to Australia, this crocodile rarely grows large than 2. Most Acute Nocturnal Colour Vision Unlike most other animals with nocturnal vision, the helmeted gecko *Tarentola chazaliae* can perceive colours at night. Largest Tortoise The giant tortoises *Chelonoidis nigra* of the Galapagos Islands are the largest tortoise species. Oldest Snake The greatest reliable age recorded for a snake in captivity is 40 years 3 months 14 days for a male common boa *Boa constrictor* named Popeye, who died at Philadelphia Zoo, Pennsylvania, USA, on 15 April Largest Crocodilian The estuarine, or saltwater, crocodile *Crocodylus porosus* is found throughout the tropical regions of Asia and the Pacific. The Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary in Orissa State, India, houses four measuring more than 6m 19 ft 8 in in length, the largest being over several unauthenticated reports of specimens up to 10 m 33 ft in length. Smallest Crocodilian The dwarf caiman *Paleosuchus palpebrosus* of northern South America is the smallest crocodilian in the world today. Females rarely exceed a length of 1. Most Acute Nocturnal Color Vision Unlike most other animals with nocturnal vision, the helmeted gecko *Tarentola chaazaliae* can perceive colors at night. Largest Tuatara There are only two species of tuatara, both of which are found exclusively in the islands off the main coast of New Zealand. Of the two, the greatly endangered Brothers Island tuatara *Sphenodon guntheri* is the largest. It can 2 ft 6 in long and have a maximum weight of 1. Rarest Lizard Until it was rediscovered in , the Jamaican iguana *Cyclura collie* was thought to be extinct. Largest Venomous Snake The venom of a single bite from the king cobra *Ophiophagus Hannah* , found in south-east Asia and India, is enough to kill an elephant, or 20 people. Rarest Crocodilian There were fewer than Chinese alligators *Alligator sinensis* living in the wild in Found in the lower parts of the Yangtze River in wetlands, the species can grow 10 2 m 6 ft 6 in and weigh 40 kg 88 lb. Their numbers have dwindled over time due to habitat destruction and killing by local farmers.

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