

# ***“Mommy I want a turtle”: Considerations When Getting an Exotic Pet***



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We have exciting reptiles that can be set up for  
less than \$100, including the price of the animal!

**In stock now!**

Ask a Pet Councillor for more details!



# Cute Home Pets

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## Popular Pet Sites

Ads by Google



### [Racing Pigeons For Sale](#)

Search multiple engines for racing pigeons for sale  
[www.webcrawler.com](http://www.webcrawler.com)

### [Train Your Macaw](#)

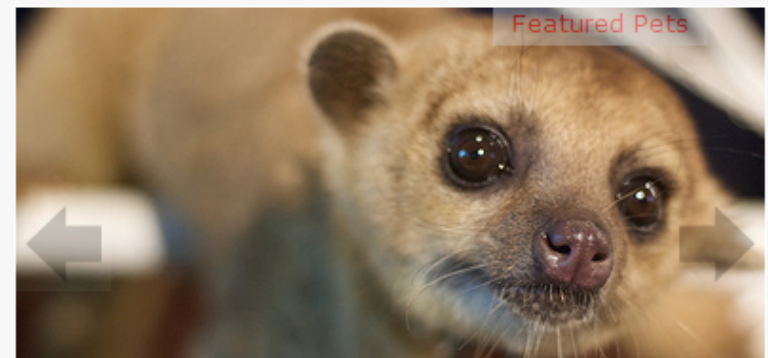
Earn Your Macaw's Love In Minutes. You'll Never Be Bitten Again!  
[www.BirdTricks.com/Macaws](http://www.BirdTricks.com/Macaws)

## Cute Home Pets

Cute home pets is a portal for everyone who [love](#) animals and their pets including dogs, cats, fish, horses, birds, and any other animal you can keep at home.

Stories, pictures and videos of the cutest domestic pets around the world will be published on CuteHomePets.com daily. Become a fan through facebook, twitter or subscribe to our RSS feed for more pet updates.

## Featured Cute Pets



Featured Pets

### **The Exotic Pet Kinkajou**

If you fancy a monkey or a ferret as pet, why not have a cross between the two in a kinkajou. Rather related to raccoons than monkeys or ferrets, kinkajous make a great pet for people with



### Capuchin monkeys...

We have always varies capuchin monkey babies available for sale; should you look for a specific species that we have currently not listed on our [AVAILABLE](#) page please inquire via email. We can help you to find the perfect baby for you quickly!



Weeper Capuchin





**Many exotic animal “emergencies”  
are the end result of improper  
husbandry and/or nutrition**



# CONSIDERATIONS



- Physical
- Behavioural
- Safety
- Economic





# ***PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS***



- Type of pet
- Environment
- Nutrition
- Exercise needs
- Health



# ***PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS***



- Type of pet
  - Species
  - Size
  - Lifespan
  - Source





# ***PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS***

- Environment
  - Size and shape
  - Temperature





# Preferred Optimal Temperatures for Select Reptiles

<u>Species</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>
Boa Constrictor	28-30°C	21-27°C
Corn Snake	25-29°C	20-24°C
Green Iguana	29-33°C	20-25°C
Bearded Dragon	29-31°C	20-24°C
Leopard Gecko	25-29.5°C	19-24°C
Semi-Aquatic Turtle	27-29°C	18-21°C
Box Turtles	26-32°C	20-21°C
Tortoises	27-32°C	21-25°C

# Preferred Optimal Temperatures for Select Amphibians

<u>Species</u>	<u>Habitat</u>	<u>P.O.T.Z.</u>
African Clawed Frog	Tropical Lowland	24-30°C
Firebelly Toads	Temperate	18-24°C
White's Tree Frog	Tropical Lowland	24-30°C
Tomato Frog	Tropical Lowland	24-30°C
Tiger Salamander	Subtropical	21-27 °C



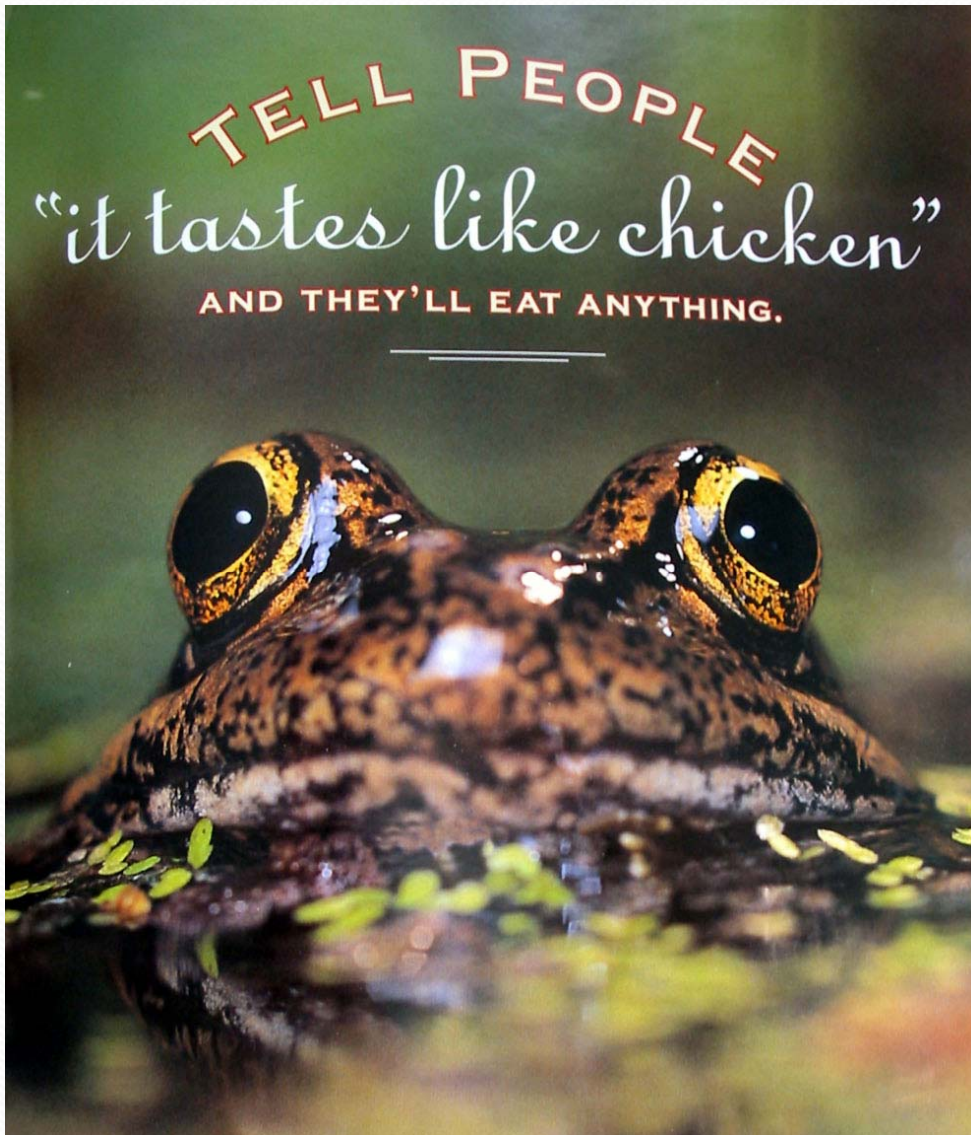
# *PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS*



- Environment
  - Size and shape
  - Temperature
  - Lighting
  - Substrates
  - Furniture
  - Water source
  - Humidity
  - Complexity



# PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS



- Nutrition
  - Food and feeding management:
    - Types of food
    - Meal size
    - Frequency of feeding
  - Husbandry related
  - Senses (olfaction, visual, taste, texture)



# ***PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS***



- Exercise needs
  - Important for physical as well as mental wellness
  - Quantity
  - Quality

# ***PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS***



- Health
  - Preventive health program
  - Establish a good relationship with veterinarians familiar with exotic species



# ***BEHAVIOURAL CONSIDERATIONS***



- Social needs
- Environmental enrichment
- Training



# ***BEHAVIOURAL CONSIDERATIONS***



- Social needs
  - Solitary vs. gregarious
  - Social groupings
  - Time commitment



# ***BEHAVIOURAL CONSIDERATIONS***



- Environmental enrichment
  - Species appropriate
  - Promotes natural behaviours
  - Based on their:
    - Physical abilities
    - Social interactions
    - Native environment
  - Combination of natural and artificial elements
  - Sensational

# ***BEHAVIOURAL CONSIDERATIONS***



- Training



# ***SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS***

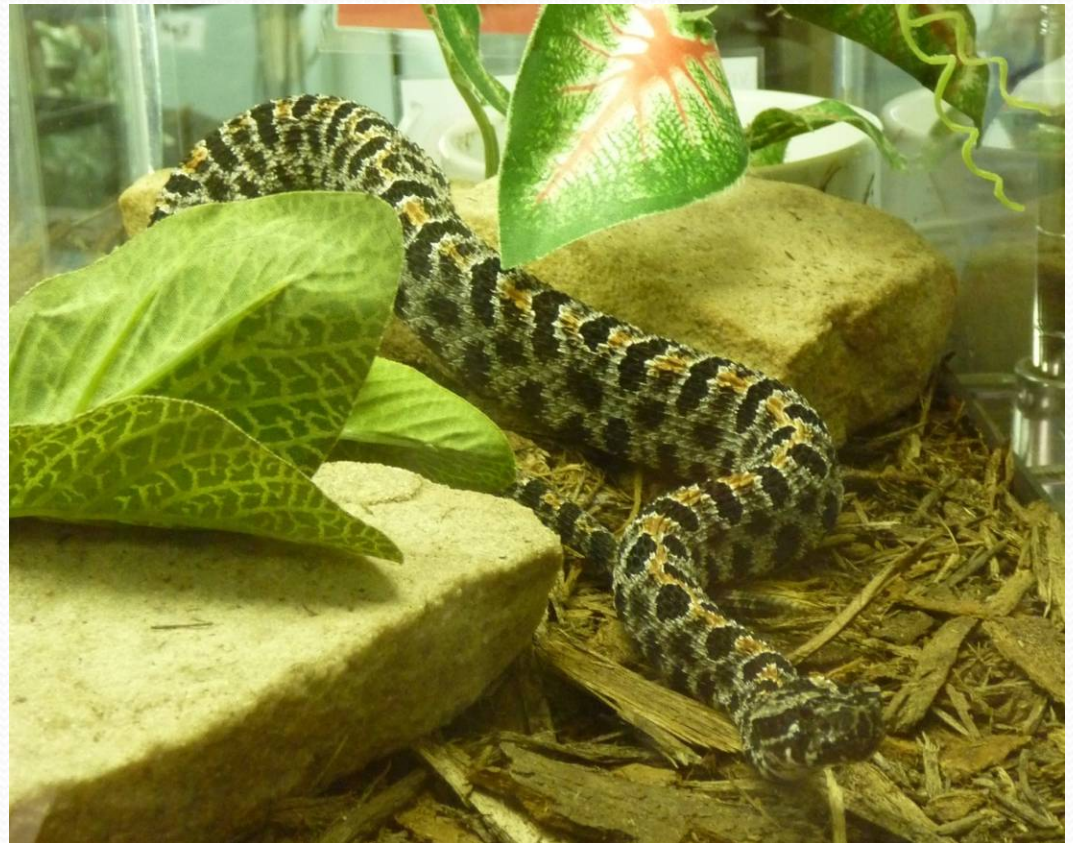


- Owner safety
- Pet safety
- Public safety
- Environmental safety



# ***SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS***

- Owner safety
  - Physical trauma





# ***SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS***



- Owner safety
  - Physical trauma
  - Zoonoses



# ***SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS***

- Pet safety
  - Physical trauma
  - Environmental
  - Anthroponozoonoses





# ***SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS***



- Pet safety
  - Physical trauma
  - Environmental
  - Anthroponozoonoses





# ***SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS***



- Public safety
  - Physical threats
  - Zoonoses





# ***SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS***



- Environmental safety
  - Release or escape of exotic pets and their impact on native species



# ***ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS***

- Initial costs
- Ongoing costs:
  - Nutrition
  - Health





# ***ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS***



- Initial costs:
  - \$\$ to \$\$\$\$



# ***ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS***



- Ongoing costs:
  - Environment
  - Nutrition
  - Health







# ***The 5 Freedoms***

1. **Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition** - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.
2. **Freedom from discomfort** - by providing a suitable environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. **Freedom from pain, injury and disease** - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. **Freedom to express normal behavior** - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals own kind.
5. **Freedom from fear and distress** - by ensuring conditions that avoid mental suffering



Canadian Veterinary  
Medical Association  
L'Association canadienne  
des médecins vétérinaires

## POSITION STATEMENTS

### **Capture of Wild Animals for the Pet Trade**

“The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is opposed to the capture of wild animals to be kept or sold as pets.”

### **Keeping of Native or Exotic Wild Animals as Pets**

“The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) does not condone the keeping as pets of any native or exotic wild animal species, or hybrids thereof, that are considered to be inherently dangerous to humans and other animals. Veterinarians are also discouraged from performing surgical procedures on these animals for the sole purpose of making the animal a safer companion. The CVMA urges veterinarians to exert their influence to discourage the keeping of these wild animals as pets.”



# ***CONCLUDING THOUGHTS***

- Do your homework
- Don't buy exotic pets for children
- Consider the source of your pet
- Understand local and provincial legislation regarding exotic animals
- Establish a good rapport with a veterinary clinic interested in exotic species





