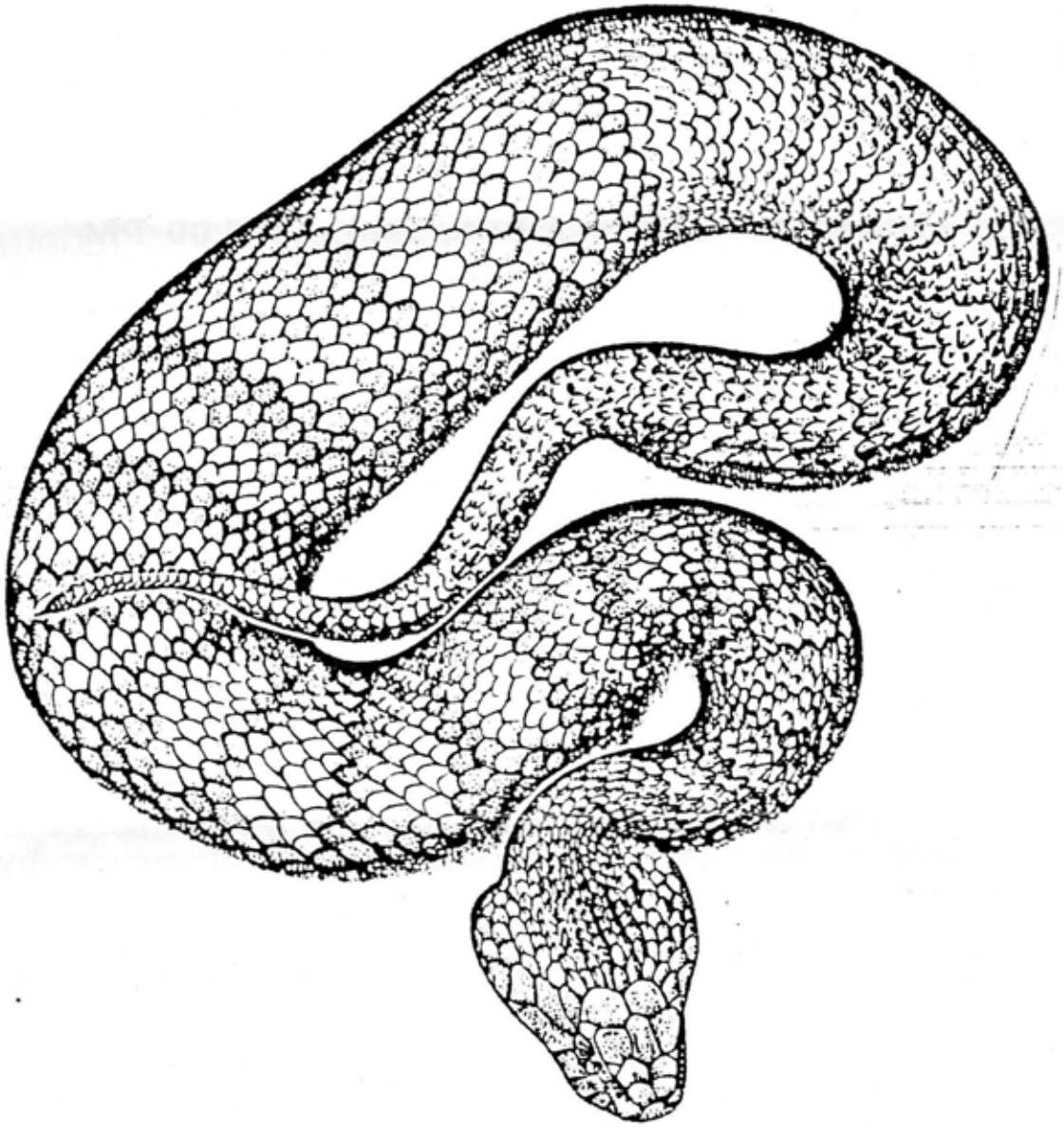
ACT HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOC.

NEWSLETTER



APRIL, 1987

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EDITOR'S REPORT

NEXT MEETING :

At the last meeting of the ACT Herpetological Association it was decided to elect a committee and to charge an annual membership fee.

The next meeting will be on :-

THURSDAY, 23RD APRIL, 1987 AT 7:00 PM

The business meeting will start at 7:00 pm and the general meeting and talk will start at 8:00 pm.

The business meeting should only be attended by those people wishing to be nominated and elected to act on the committee. Positions likely to be elected are - President, Secretary/Editor, and Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP FEES :

It has become necessary to charge an annual membership fee to cover printing and postage costs. The fee will be $5.00 for an adult member and $2.00 for students and pensioners. These fees will become due from 1st July, 1987. A subscription form will be included with the July Newsletter and your membership fee may be paid at the meeting or forwarded to the Treasurer by post.

TALK FOR NEXT MEETING :

Dr. Arthur Georges, who was unable to give his scheduled talk for the last meeting, will now give his talk on "The Warradjan - Australia's Most Unusual Turtle" at the next meeting on April 23rd.

I would like to thank Mr. Hank Jenkins for giving his excellent and informative talk on relocating crododiles in the Northern Teritory, at such short notice last month. Thanks again, Hank.

PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR :

We have decided to hold our meetings on alternate 4th Wednesday and Thursday nights to allow as many members as possible to attend. To avoid confusion I have prepared the following program for the rest of the year :-

APRIL	-	THURSDAY	23RD
MAY	-	WEDNESDAY	27TH
JUNE	-	THURSDAY	25TH
JULY	-	WEDNESDAY	22ND
AUGUST	-	THURSDAY	27TH
SEPTEMBER	-	WEDNESDAY	23RD
OCTOBER	-	THURSDAY	22ND
NOVEMBER	-	WEDNESDAY	25TH
DECEMBER	-	3RD THURSDAY	17TH

ATTENDANCE BOOK :

From our next meeting an attendance book will be passed around. This will give an idea of how many people attend our meetings. Please help by making sure you sign the book during the course of the evening.

Hope to see a good attendance at the next meeting when we will be electing our committee.

(SUE TUDOR)
Acting Secretary/Editor

35 Elrington Street
BRAIDWOOD NSW 2622
Phone : (work) 801617
(home) 048/422438

☐ Just snaked out

HE'S called Pye, but as he's deaf he doesn't answer to it. Nor does he talk, but he's very active in the depths of the night and eats only mice. He is two metres long, very slim and prettily patterned in lemon yellow, olive green, navy blue and dark brown and antiquarian bookseller **Penelope Horn** is worried witless that someone may harm him because he's a snake. In fact, Pye is a gentle North Queensland carpet python lost, stolen or strayed from Childers Street, North Adelaide. Mrs Horn, (223 5066, a.h. 267 1558) has cherished Pye for 16 years and says he's vulnerable to cars, cats, humans and ... she's bereft without him.

☐ Snake's alive

PYE, the missing North Queensland carpet python, has been found — secreted within the ventilation system of a clothes dryer next door to his North Adelaide home. His relieved owner, **Penelope Horn**, has offered her neighbors a reward — dinner at the Snake Charmer restaurant.

The Canberra Times

Friday, March 27, 1987

Picture: MARTIN JONES

Paul Scanlan, 13, of Red Hill, a keen amateur herpetologist, with two of his blue-tongue lizards yesterday. He discovered a two-headed lizard among some new-borns on Saturday [See Paspalum Place. — Page 2].

One of our junior members, Paul Scanlan, of Red Hill, made an exciting find j his lizard enclosure a few weeks ago. One of his Common Blue Tongue lizards gave birth to a litter of 8 babies, one of which has two heads and five legs.

For those who missed the article in the Canberra Times I have copied it on the opposite page.

PASPALUM PLACE — By IAN WARDEN

The Canberra Times

Friday, March 27, 1987

Two heads (and two blue tongues) not necessarily better than one

"I JUST blinked and blinked again. I couldn't believe it!" Paul Scanlan told me yesterday, thinking back to a bizarre discovery he had made in his back yard on Saturday.

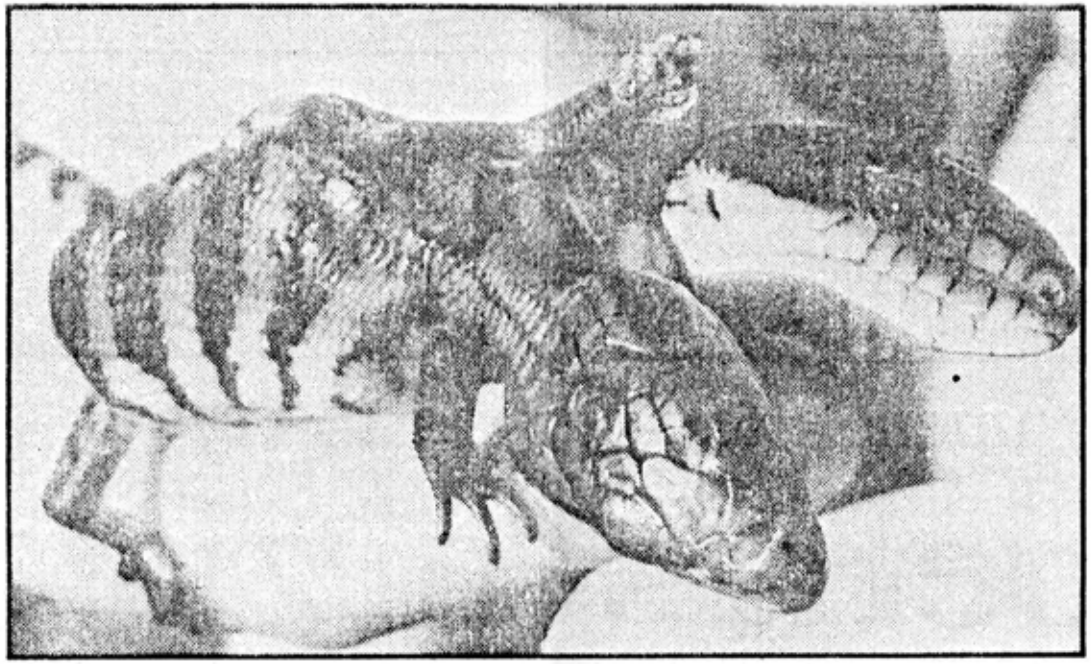
Paul, 13, is a keen herpetologist and has been keeping bluetongue lizards at his Red Hill home for some two years. On Saturday, going out to check on his saurischian charges in their cage, he found that one common blue-tongue lizard, *Tiliqua scincoides*, was giving birth. He did a little lizard midwifery at the time but, returning to the cage later in the day found that some more had been born, including one which, because it was lying at a funny angle he feared might be dead, since bluetongue parents have been known to dine on the occasional infant.

Picking it up he found that the lizard was alive and that it was watching him with all four eyes. This lizard had two heads. No wonder its owner blinked.

When I heard of it on Wednesday morning I greeted the news with some scepticism and even a little ennui.

The scepticism had to do with the fact that we are approaching All Fools' Day and it occurred to me that the beast either did not exist at all or that, when I got to see it, I would find that it was an orthodox lizard with a second head cunningly Araldited to its shoulders. I think it is not commonly known that when the first duck-billed platypus was sent from Australia to Europe several learned zoologists refused to believe that such a thing could be real and imagined that some artful seamstress had cobbled together, with invisible stitching, sundry portions of a duck and a rat. I thought the two-headed lizard was likely to be a contrivance of the kind suspected by those sceptics.

The ennui, which was only temporary, had something to do with the fact that as a parliamentary reporter I am quite used to looking at two-*faced* reptiles, and so did not throb with the anticipation with which, say, our court reporter might have anticipated a glimpse of this novel spectre.



The blue-tongue monster: committee decision on which way to go.

And yet, having sallied forth to see the monster at a meeting, on Thursday night, of the Canberra Herpetological Association, all ennui was dispelled. Two faces are one thing (or perhaps two things) but two heads are another (or perhaps two others).

The lizard, fed on milk, moves the two heads quite independently with two blue tongues darting at different times.

Paul told me that from his observations the brain in the right-hand head seemed to move the legs of the right-hand side and vice versa, so that "one [head] usually wants to go one way and one usually wants to go the other". (The lizard, incidentally, has a fifth leg, but it projects out of the shoulders between the heads and plays no part in locomotion.)

On Thursday night the lizard would scuttle to the wall of its container, a large plastic bowl, but was then quite stuck with the right jaw of the left-hand head pressed to the wall and the left jaw of the right-hand head similarly pressed, rather like a novice skier who has contrived to fall down with one leg on each side of a tree. Progress was impossible.

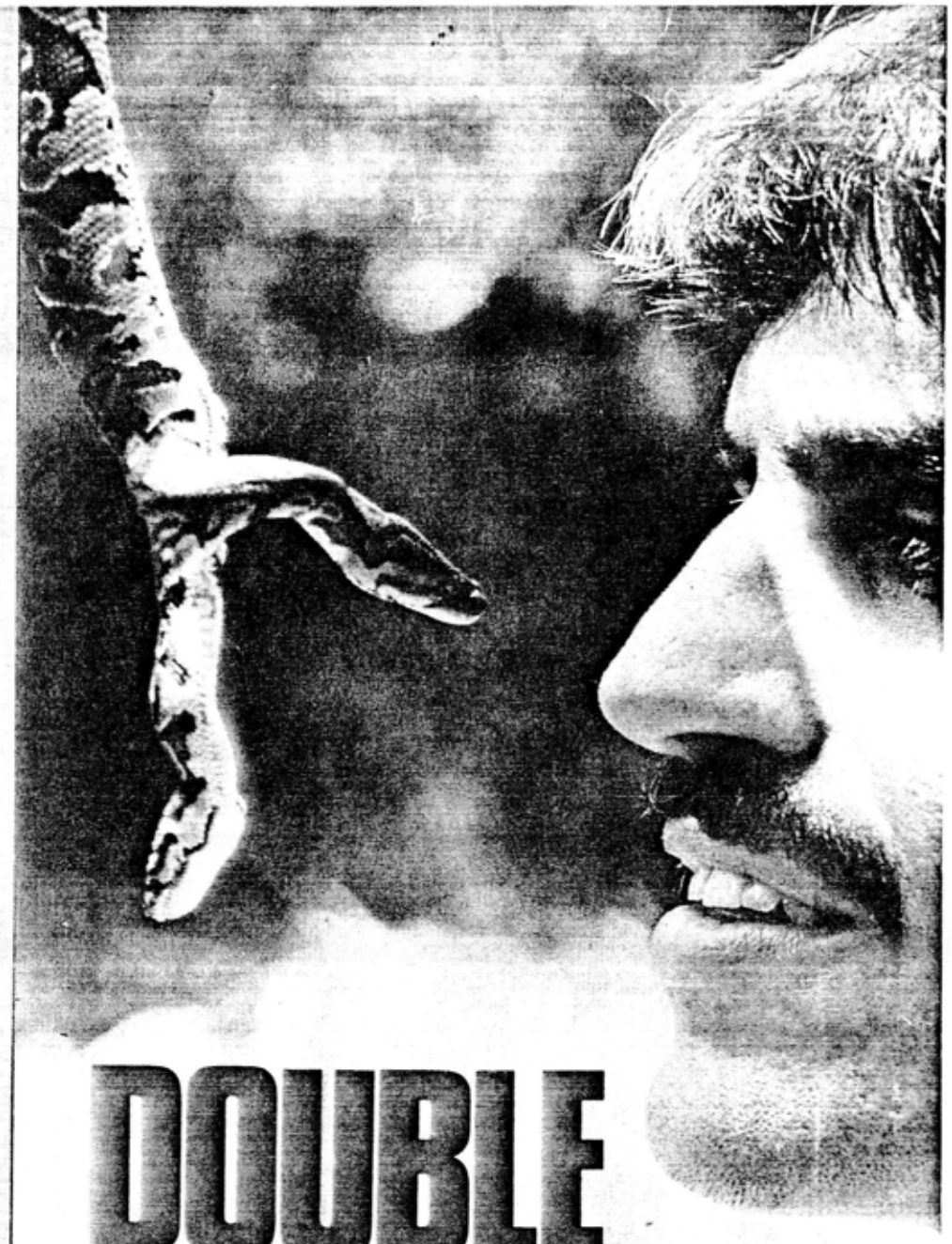
Paul's father told me that he was not overjoyed by having the creature on his premises because "it's a bit macabre." He blanched at Paul's cheerful announcement that he had heard of bluetongue lizards living for up to 21 years in captivity.

The monster is one of eight babies born to the mother on the Saturday. The others are quite normal and are a good deal bigger and a lot less confused than their bicephalous brother, who, it occurs to me, would be an ideal mascot for the contemporary Liberal Party, divided as it is into "wets" and "dries" and inclined to try to move in two conflicting directions at once.

The day after the aforementioned births some extra excitement was added to Paul's weekend when another common bluetongue lizard gave birth to another clutch, this time of hybrids resulting from a meaningful interface with another species of bluetongue.

Herpetologist Dr Richard Longmore told me yesterday that genetic freaks like the two-headed lizard were quite rare and that he had seen only two or three in 30 years of ogling reptiles. More are born than are seen, of course, since some must be born in the wild but do not live for long. It is hard enough to run for shelter from a kookaburra when all of your limbs instantly agree on a destination, let alone when those limbs require a kind of conference first and then a coalition-style degree of cooperation. Even Paul's seems unlikely to live for 21 years, even if the Liberal Party adopts it and indulges it, because it is small and frail and seems destined to have problems which are not dreamed of in our philosophy.

The lizard's immediate future will probably include some investigations, including some x-rays, at the Australian National University. It will interest herpetologists to see the interior design of the beast.



DOUBLE HEADER

Ron Magill gets to know the two-headed snake.

THERE'S A snake Miami, Florida, that could well head off in two directions at once.

In fact, the ball python is really a "bi-thon" — it has two heads.

Named Medusa, the rare snake was a gift from Ghana for Mario Tabraue, the owner of a Miami rare-reptile import company. He says he has never seen anything like it.

A Miami zoo animal handler, Ron Magill, is also impressed.

"This is really bizarre. I've never in my life seen anything like this," he said, as he let Medusa (sex unknown) coil its two heads around his thumb like the caduceus, the symbol of the medial profession.

He thinks Medusa, about two months' old, is probably a Siamese snake. Both heads have been seen to eat mice, and there seem to be two sets of internal organs. He is planning to X-ray the snake to check.

Medusa measures less than 30cm, but could grow up to 1.2m.

To follow up the article about Paul Scanlan's two headed lizard, here is another bizarre story, this time of a two headed Python in America, which appeared in "People" magazine two years ago.

PO BOX 88
BUNGENDORE NSW 2622

VETERINARY REPORT ON A CHILDRENS PYTHON WHICH SWALLOWED A STONE

BY HONEY PYNER B.V.Sc (Hons)

A young Childrens Python (Liasis Childreni) aged about 9 months was presented for examination with two problems.

Firstly she was undersized for her age, being about 12 inches long rather than an ideal 18 inches; she had shed only twice since acquisition 7 months previously, and then only in patches.

Her habit was to refuse all food except skinks, which may have contributed to a recurrent parasite problem despite regular worming. The familiar problem of captivity stress possibly played a part.

We also considered chronic low-grade dehydration, as a small snake has a very large surface area in relation to body mass, and is far more subject to dehydration than the larger animal. Increased humidification of cage and foliage was recommended.

Her second problem was an interesting large bulge about one third of her length from the head, apparently appearing suddenly, about a month previously. It was clearly a foreign object in her stomach, and x-ray revealed what was almost certainly a flattish stone about 0.75 cm across. It seemed relatively painless, though the snake had to slightly accommodate her movements to its mass.

It was obviously far too large to remove by medical means such as a dose of paraffin oil; and there was a risk in leaving her to grow, as it was likely to pass prematurely from the stomach and cause an acute intestinal obstruction. Surgical removal was indicated.

The snake was anaesthetised with its head in a closed box with oxygen, halothane and nitrous oxide, and a small inverted L-Block with local anaesthetic placed around the surgical site in case of premature waking. A paramedian body wall incision allowed complete exteriorisation of the stomach; the stone was removed, and the stomach and body wall repaired with 6.0 silk sutures. The snake was weighed (10 gms) and given 0.02 ml Chloramiphenicol IM into the tail, and 0.01 ml Penbritin intraperitoneally.

To our great disappointment Lacey did not recover consciousness, and soon after surgery stopped her slow breathing and died. This I ascribe to any one or combination of several factors :-

(b) There was evidence of inflammation of the stomach wall and abdominal cavity lining, contributing to "surgical shock".

(c) The minute scale of the operation demanded an extreme delicacy which was difficult to achieve with normal surgical instruments - however I would not hesitate to do it again.

(d) The question of anaesthesia. It is very easy to manipulate depth of anaesthesia in a closed box, using variable concentration and flow rate. However, it is very difficult to monitor depth of anaesthesia. In mammals we can count on the fairly rapid rate of breathing to "blow off" excess halothane quickly from the lungs; an anaesthetised snake however breathes very slowly, and retains a breath in the lungs for a lengthy period of time. Thus even when anaesthesia is removed, if the snake has had a little too much, it cannot simply blow it off and surface quickly.

In retrospect, three useful considerations arose from the experience :-

1. Beware of small smooth stones in cages. Soft detritus and bark may make a safer environment.

2. If your snake has a funny look - have it checked over quickly, before gastritis or peritonitis has set in.

3. I think with such a small snake (ten grams!) , in future I would use a minutely measured dose of Ketamine intramuscularly for anaesthesia, rather than Halothane. The advantage of Halothane is rapid recovery of consciousness, as compared to a lengthy period of anxiety with Ketamine. But slow recovery has to be better than the risk of no recovery.

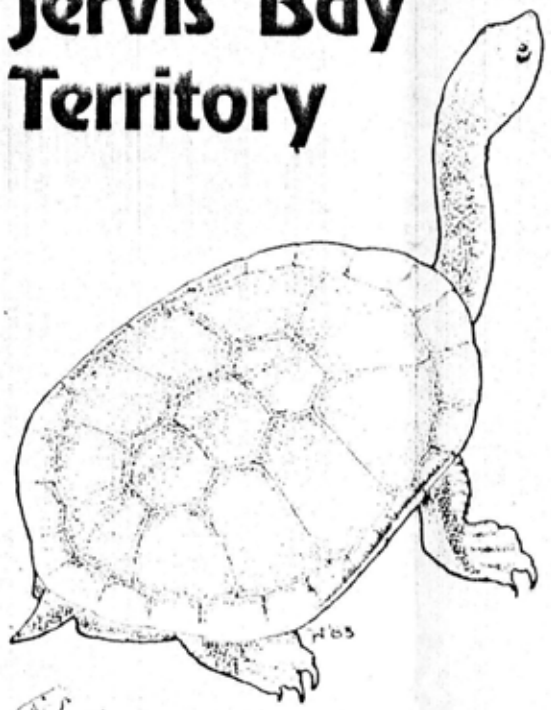
Lastly, I would not hesitate to try such an operation again. The actual surgery, though rather microscopic, was tidy and not difficult to accomplish. Success may come more easily with a healthier patient, and minutely measured anaesthesia.

(Signed) Honey Pyner

23 March, 1987

Department of Territories and Local Government

The protection and keeping of animals in the ACT and Jervis Bay Territory



A.C.T. PARKS AND CONSERVATION SERVICE

Nature Conservation Ordinance 1980

The *Nature Conservation Ordinance 1980* replaces previous ACT wildlife protection legislation and provides for the conservation of animals and plants in the ACT and Jervis Bay Territory, including the protection of habitat and for establishing nature reserves.

The Ordinance is administered by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service within the Department of Territories and Local Government, under the direction of the Conservator of Wildlife.

The legislation covers import, export, keeping and dealing in animals, taking and killing native flora and fauna and issue of permits and licences for these activities. This leaflet outlines the special provisions relating to the protection and keeping of animals. Additional information on matters not included in this leaflet can be found in the Ordinance. Copies may be obtained from the Australian Government Publishing Service Bookshop, Alinga Street, Canberra City.

Taking Protected Animal Wildlife

It is an offence to take, capture, trap or kill Australian native animals in the ACT or Jervis Bay Territory without a permit. (This includes native animals listed in TABLE 1). Usually a permit will be issued only for scientific purposes and is subject to a number of conditions. There is a special provision relating to situations where a native animal may be killed if it constitutes a danger to a person.

Injured and Orphaned Native Animals

Permits to keep kangaroos or wallabies as pets or to raise orphaned joeys normally will not be issued. Injured kangaroos, wallabies and orphaned joeys should be referred to the ACT Parks and Conservation Service (telephone 46 2308).

The Wildlife Foundation (ACT) Incorporated has been authorised by the Department to care for and raise other sick and injured native animals for eventual return to the wild. Inquiries relating to animals in need of care can be directed to the Foundation by telephoning 80 4537 (24-hour service).

In an emergency, animals may be treated by the finder provided that they are released within two days in familiar surroundings within 500m of the place where they were taken. A permit is required to keep animals taken under these conditions for longer periods. However, before offering assistance to a wild animal make quite certain that it is in need of attention, that you are in a position to give realistic help and that its plight will not be adversely affected by your actions.

Keeping Animals

A permit is required to keep most animals including birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Most commonly kept introduced animals and a few species of native animals are exempt from this requirement as detailed in Table 1. Permits may be obtained free of charge from the Conservator of Wildlife and must be obtained for all animals not listed in Table 1.

It is an offence to take native mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians from the wild in the ACT and Jervis Bay Territory. However, they may be purchased from licensed pet shops, aviculturalists and authorised fauna dealers. A permit or licence is required to keep or sell eggs, skins, mounted specimens or any part of an animal unless it is an exempt animal as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Exempt Animals for which a 'Permit to Keep' is not Required

Domestic Animals

Cats
Dogs (To be registered under the *Dog Control Ordinance 1975)*
Guinea pigs
White mice and rats (laboratory varieties)
Stock (Defined in *Stock Ordinance 1934)* including sheep, cattle, horses, goats, asses, mules, swine

Introduced Birds

Canary ..... *Serinus canaria*
Peach-faced love-bird ..... *Agapornis roseicollis*
Partridge (includes Chukas) ..... *Alectoris* — all species
Partridge (includes European partridge) ..... *Perdix* — all species
European gold finch ..... *Carduelis carduelis*
Pheasant (includes Golden pheasant and Lady Amherst's) ..... *Chrysolophus* — all species
Pheasant (includes Green and Ringneck pheasants) ..... *Phasianus* — all species
Common quail ..... *Coturnix coturnix*
California quail ..... *Lophortyx californicus*
Poultry (includes Domestic pigeon *Columba livia)* ..... Domestic varieties

Australian Native Birds

Galah ..... *Cacatua roseicapilla*
King quail ..... *Coturnix chinensis*
Budgerygah ..... *Melopsittacus undulatus*
Cockatiel ..... *Nymphicus hollandicus*
Zebra finch ..... *Poephila guttata*

Reptiles and Amphibians

Common long-necked tortoise ..... *Chelodina longicollis*
Marbled gecko ..... *Phyllodactylus marmoratus*
Common grass skink ..... *Leiolopisma guichenoti*
Leiolopisma delicata
Eastern blue-tongued lizard ..... *Tiliqua scincoides*
Frogs — all species indigenous to the ACT (except the Corroboree frog) ..... *Pseudophryne corroboree*

Sale of Animals

It is an offence to sell animals (except those exempt in Table 1 above) without first obtaining a permit or licence.

These are issued in several categories and the appropriate authorisation required is outlined as follows:

PERMIT TO SELL —
authorises sale of 5 or fewer animals ..... no charge

LICENCE A —
authorises sale of 10 or fewer animals .... Fee $5.00

LICENCE B —
authorises sale of between
11 and 100 animals ..... Fee $10

LICENCE C —
authorises sale of more than
100 animals ..... Fee $50.00

All permits and licences to sell animals are valid for a twelve month period from 1 July to 30 June.

Permits and licences authorise the sale of lawfully held animals to purchasers holding permits to keep animals. It is the responsibility of the purchasers of any animal except those exempted under Table 1 to obtain a permit to keep.

Import and Export of Animals

A permit (free of charge) is required to import into, or export from, the ACT, any animal (except those exempt under Table 1) and this must be obtained in advance. However, when the importation or exportation is for the purpose of sale or trade a licence is required and a fee is prescribed.

Permits and licences are issued subject to the approval of the relevant authority in the State or Territory of import or export. When exporting animals from the ACT the wildlife authority in the receiving State or Territory must first issue the appropriate import authorisation before an export authority will be issued by the Conservator of Wildlife. It is necessary to apply for a permit well in advance of the date of departure. In addition a licence holder who imports animals is required to notify the Conservator of Wildlife within 24 hours of import or receipt of the consignment and the place at which the animals may be inspected. After importation, where animals are to be sold under licence, a certificate of compliance stating that the animals are fit for sale must be obtained from the Conservator before the animals can be sold.

A licence holder who exports animals is required to notify the Conservator at least 48 hours prior to the proposed day of export.

Export of Animals Overseas

Export of animals to destinations overseas is regulated by the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act.

Inquiries concerning overseas export of all animals, skins, feathers, horns, shells and other parts of animals should be made to:

Director
Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service
GPO Box 636
Canberra ACT 2601
Attention: Wildlife Protection Section
Telephone (062) 46 6414

Prior to obtaining an overseas export permit, a permit (rt an animal from the Australian Capital Territory must (ained from the Conservator of Wildlife.

Renewal of Permits and Licences

Permits and licences to keep and sell animals expire on 30 June each year. It is the responsibility of the permit or licence holder to reapply in writing prior to this date.

Applications for renewal of permits and licences must be accompanied by such information as specified on the permit or licence.

Record Books

Records are required to be maintained in the official Record Book by the following persons —

- holders of all licences relating to animals
- holders of permits who keep more than 5 animals (except animals, refer Table 1 above)
- holders of permits who keep one or more restricted animal wildlife (refer Table 2, below).

This book is supplied with the original licence or permit and must record any addition to or deletion from the animal stock including all sales, purchases, exchanges, births, deaths, imports and exports.

The Record Book should be kept in a safe place and kept up to date at all times. Loss of the Record Book should be reported to the Conservator of Wildlife immediately.

Restricted animal wildlife are listed in Table 2 and are those species which are rare, endangered or otherwise considered to require special conservation measures. It is therefore a requirement of permits and licences relating to these species that records be maintained for every individual.

Table 2. Restricted Animal Wildlife

Mammal

Dingo ..... *Canis familiaris dingo*

Birds

Cloncurry parrot ..... *Barnardius barnardi macgillivrayi*
Major Mitchell's cockatoo ..... *Cacatua leadbeateri*
Long-billed corella ..... *Cacatua tenuirostris*
Gang-gang cockatoo ..... *Callocephalon fimbriatum*
Black cockatoo ..... *Calyptorhynchus* — all species
Eclectus parrot ..... *Eclectus roratus*
Orange-bellied parrot ..... *Neophema chrysogaster*
Fig parrot ..... *Opopsitta* — all species
Ground parrot ..... *Pezoporus wallicus*
Green rosella ..... *Platycercus caledonicus*
Northern rosella ..... *Platycercus venustus*
Golden-shouldered
parrot ... *Psephotus chrysopterygius chrysopterygius*
Hooded parrot ..... *Psephotus chrysopterygius dissimilis*
Naretha blue bonnet .... *Psephotus haematogaster narethae*
Paradise parrot ..... *Psephotus pulcherrimus*

Reptiles

Boas ..... *Boidae* — all species

Where to Obtain Permits and Licences

Application forms for permits and licences are available from:

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service
Department of Territories and Local Government
GPO Box 158
Canberra City 2601

and at the ACT Parks and Conservation Service inquiry counter

Room 212
2nd Floor
South Building
Civic Square ACT
Telephone No. (062) 46 2308

Please apply well in advance to enable the application to be processed and the authorisation issued by the date required.

Penalties

Failure to possess an appropriate permit or licence or to comply with other provisions of the Nature Conservation Ordinance may incur a severe penalty and confiscation of the animals involved.

Officers of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service are available to assist with applications for permits and licences and to answer inquiries relating to the Ordinance.

For further information write to:

Conservator of Wildlife
ACT Parks and Conservation Service
Department of Territories and Local Government
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Printed by Watson Ferguson and Co., Brisbane

THE CROSS-BREEDING OF A MALE DIAMOND PYTHON WITH A FEMALE CARPET PYTHON (BRISBANE VARIETY).

REPRINTED FROM:-
THE R.K.A. NEWSLETTER ISSUE 18,JUNE 1986

Anonomous from Newcastle

After unsuccessfully attempting to legally obtain either a male carpet python or a female diamond python, I decided to attempt cross-breeding my 2 metre long male diamond python and 2.3 metre long female carpet python. The result was the deposition of 25 eggs, of which 20 were eventually to hatch.

The two snakes were housed together in an indoor/outdoor cage facility, on a year round basis. No other snakes were kept in the facility.

I first observed the snakes mating on the 11th of August (1985), then on the 8th of September, and finally on the 28th of September. Matings occured in a hide box approximately 60cm x 60cm, and 50cm high. This hide box was positioned in the 'indoors' half of the cage. The female sloughed her skin about a month after the final observed mating episode.

Hoping for the best, I provided a metre high compost mound in one corner of the outdoor section of the cage. I first noticed the female carpet python enter the mound on the 20th of October - and she remained there on and off - only leaving to sunbake between 9 and 11 each morning. One morning - on the 23rd of November, I noticed that she appeared to have slimmed considerably, so I had a look in the compost heap to find the clutch of newly laid eggs - all but four were stuck together in a single mass. The discluded four were not properly formed, and were eventually determined to be dead. There were 21 eggs in the main mass. The temperature within the compost mound was 29 C.

On the 1st of December I decided to retrieve the eggs from the female and artificially incubate them - mainly because I was planning to move house very shortly. With the removal of the eggs, the female became restless and searched for hours through the compost mound for the lost eggs.

The clutch was placed into an empty 4 litre ice-cream container to which was also added a mixture of vermiculite and water (1:1 mixture by weight). This left the container a bit more than half filled. I then sealed the ice-cream container and wrapped the container in an electric blanket (I hadn't seen the diagrams and article by John Montgomery on constructing an icubator in *RKA Newsletter # 12* at that stage). Insulation was wrapped around the electric blanket and the lot was in turn placed into a cardboard box.

As an afterthought, I decided to rig up a thermostatic device to control the incubating temperature. This meant mounting the thermostatic sensor inside the ice-cream container within the vermiculite. In this manner, I was able to keep the incubating temperature fairly constant at 30-31 C (I checked it daily with a thermometre). However, on one occassion the temperature reading was a bit high - at 34 C, which occured at about a week before hatching.

All but one of the 'good' eggs hatched on the 15th of January 1986. Upon closer inspection, the egg that didn't hatch was rotten - same as the four previously discarded ones. The average length of the hatchlings was 43.5 cm (range 42-45). Between the 26th and 31st of January, all of the young entered the opaque phase of the skin sloughing process, and they all sloughed during the following three days. Interestingly, all sloughing seemed to have occured only between the hours of 8:00 PM and 10:00 PM regardless of which day they sloughed. Two of the newly sloughed juveniles accepted one pink mouse each despite all 20 being kept together in 1 metre long tank.

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REPRINTED FROM:-
THE N.Z.H.S. NEWLETTER "MOKO" No.86/1 AUTUMN

NEWS:

.....A three legged freshwater turtle (RED-EARED) is settling into her new surroundings at Rainbow and Fairy Springs after being found by an AA Officer in Tauranga last month. Only 20cm long, but with a strong kick and vicious bite, the turtle is thought to have been illegally imported. Investigations are now underway by the Rotorua office of the Wildlife Service, Internal Affairs.

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