



## **Message from NCARK-North Carolina Association of Reptile Keepers Animal Protection Institute Files Ban Bill S1477 with NC Senate**

As anticipated the API has filed their bill to ban Exotic Animals including many Reptiles.

DO NOT contact the Senator who has filed the bill at this time. We are negotiating with him. He has not agreed to sponsor it yet and has filed it as a placeholder while he makes his decision.

DO contact your Senator and politely express your concerns about this animal rights oriented bill. **To find your Senator Go to:**  
<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/members/memberList.pl?sChamber=Senate>

Start off with emails and phone calls. Follow up with a mailed letter.  
Tell them to oppose S1477. DO IT TODAY!!!

Here are some talking points:

### **Oppose S1477 Ban on Exotic Animals**

\* The Animal Protection Institute (API) advocates for bans on exotic animals. API is an animal rights advocate from Sacramento CA. They are a sister organization to PETA and share the same membership base. Both groups desire to end all animal ownership and use. API is actively campaigning to end livestock farming, biomedical research and exotic animal ownership.

\* API advocates for a ban under the guise of public safety, but API's motivation is to end all animal ownership and use. The North Carolina Association of Reptile Keepers opposes the ban on reptiles.

\* The facts do not support the claims of public endangerment. No one has ever been killed by a captive reptile in NC. The deaths nationwide from captive reptiles are exceedingly rare. This fact is supported by a study done by the NC DHHS. If a captive reptile escapes, the owner is the one at risk. Outside of an indoor protective environment, an exotic reptile would quickly perish. Reptiles are a significant investment which owners protect and keep secure.

\* 400,000 people own some type of reptile in NC. 400,000 reptiles is a fraction of the number of indigenous venomous snakes naturally populating North Carolina.

\* The majority of reptile experts in NC agree that none of the reptiles should be banned. Reptiles help to educate and enrich the lives of North Carolinians. NC Association of Reptile Keepers (NCARK) and NC Partners in Amphibian & Reptile Conservation (NCPARC) have been working with state agencies for 18 months on a proposal for responsible regulation of some reptiles. This process should be allowed to progress towards a solution outside the context of animal rights legislation to ban exotic animals.

\* Banning or regulating exotic animals each require enforcement. Enforcement will be difficult and costly to whatever entity is charged with that responsibility under either a ban or a regulatory scheme. If the state cannot afford to enforce a ban or regulations, counties or municipalities are similarly constrained with resources and expertise.

\* A ban will cause otherwise law abiding citizens to go underground. Regulation improves public safety far more than a ban.

\* Because the proposed ban is really about animal rights instead of public safety, it would ban private zoos, sanctuaries, educational outreach programs, breeders and independent wildlife professionals, leaving only the NC Zoo and their "pet" sanctuary (CPT) intact. All of these small businesses would be destroyed, along with jobs and significant economic investments.

\* NC has a very sophisticated reptile community as evidenced by the quality and number of superior exhibits at Reptile & Amphibian Day held March 17, 2007 at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences (Attendance of 15,344. The largest event of its kind in the country). Numerous professionals, state agency personnel, university academics, breeders and hobbyists contribute to the advancement in knowledge of natural history, conservation, genetics, captive husbandry, behavior and molecular biology.

\* API typically proposes a grandfather clause of existing animals. The grandfather clause is prohibitive and problematic. Where enacted it will nullify any "so called" solution to public safety. If the animals remain in place nothing changes for a generation (reptiles live for 25 years). If there is no grandfather clause, animal owner would be required to euthanize their pets and investments.

\* API's proposal doesn't solve problems for NC, it creates them. Solutions for any North Carolina problem should be by North Carolinians. Is there a problem with reptiles?

**CONTACT YOUR SENATOR TODAY!!!**

**[www.ncark.org](http://www.ncark.org)**