

A Reptile Dysfunction? Attempts to quantify the herpetofauna trade

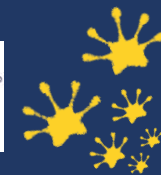
HL Tedds^{1,4}, S Sneddon², R Clubb³, J Ollerton¹, and WD McCormick⁴

1. Faculty of Arts, Science and Technology, University of Northampton, Northampton, UK
2. Faculty of Business and Law, University of Northampton, Northampton, UK

3. RSPCA, Horsham, UK
4. Hartpury University, Gloucestershire, UK

 @HelenTedds

 Helen.Tedds@Northampton.ac.uk



- ✦ Herpetofauna= reptiles and amphibians e.g. snakes, lizards, tortoises, turtles, frogs, toads, newts, and salamanders
- ✦ Rife within many culture's folklore, usually as the bad guy!
- ✦ Growing in popularity as pets, yet our understanding of their biological needs is limited compared to more traditional pets
- ✦ No one knows for certain how many different species and in what numbers are available within the pet trade
- ✦ Originally thought of as quite simple creatures lacking complex emotions and intelligence, but this notion is changing...
- ✦ My thesis aims to quantify the number and range of different species of reptile and amphibian across English pet shops and also those for sale on online classified websites such as Preloved, Gumtree, and Pets4Homes
- ✦ I have also investigated the care advice given to customers
- ✦ My initial findings have advised the RSPCA and Pet Advertising Advisory Group
- ✦ My methods can be applied to any species of animal within the pet trade



The screenshot shows a Metro news article. The headline is "Terrifying moment Coronation Street star Harry Visinoni spots snake lurking in his bathroom". The article is by Sabrina Barr, dated Saturday 9 Jan 2021 2:16 pm. It includes a video player with a thumbnail of Harry Visinoni looking distressed, with a caption "Cheers @rspcaaltrincham". Below the video, there is a "MUST READ" section with a link to "Will Mellor confirms exit as he finishes filming Coronation Street?". The article text includes: "You know that irrational fear lots of people have of stumbling across a snake hiding in the bathroom? For Coronation Street star Harry Visinoni, that fear recently became a shocking reality. In a series of videos shared on his Instagram Story, Harry, who plays Seb Franklin on the ITV soap, revealed that he found a snake poking its head from behind the toilet in his bathroom while he was brushing his teeth."