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Recommended stocking densities for reptiles kept in a pet retail environment

Background:

In line with a decision made by PIJAC Canada's National Board of Directors, the association was asked to prepare a set of recommended stocking densities for pets kept in a pet retail environment. This document represents the sixth segment of the exercise and refers to reptiles.

The following draft is the result of some extensive research. It is expected that this document will be subject to additional consultation. At this point in its development, the document reflects the expertise identified and selected by the staff of PIJAC Canada. Through our involvement with the **International Pet Advisory Council** we were able to review pertinent documents referred by other sources around the world, including the State of Colorado's published Animal Care Facilities guidelines, the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals and the Pet Industry Association of Australia National Codes of Practice.

Assumptions

The following assumptions have been taken into account in establishing the recommendations appearing in this document:

1. Definition of Pet retail environment. "Pet retail environment" means any place or premise used in whole or in part, whether on a permanent or temporary basis, for the purpose of retail sale, trading, bartering, or otherwise transferring pet animals to the public.

In addition to the traditional pet shop or wholesaler, pet retail environments shall include the keeping for transfer or the transfer of pet animals at temporary facilities such as flea markets, mobile facilities, department stores, merchandise outlets, discount outlets, pet animal shows conducting a sale, and other types of retail outlets.

2. "Reptile" means an aquatic or terrestrial reptile and amphibians.
3. The minimum needs for socialization and exercise (when applicable) are met.
4. "Housing unit" means any aquarium or other enclosure used to house a reptile but does not include housing in a container while transporting a reptile outside a companion animal establishment.
5. Notwithstanding the other assumptions, it is understood that while this document specifically refers to stocking densities, it is assumed that all other pertinent animal welfare considerations, as outlined in other PIJAC Canada publications, are being met.
6. The housing units shall comply with the following:

a-. Height of housing unit must not be less than 10 cm from the top of the head of the tallest reptile to the ceiling of the housing unit, as measured when the reptile is standing and must allow the animal to stretch fully upright.

b. It is recommended that reptiles from different clutches should be housed in separate enclosures to avoid any possible cross-contamination.

In light of these assumptions, PIJAC Canada recommends the following as suggested cage stocking densities for reptiles kept in a pet retail environment.

RECOMMENDED STOCKING DENSITY FOR REPTILES IN A PET STORE ENVIRONMENT						
(FINAL DRAFT JAN 2011)						
		SQCM	CM	CM		
LIZARDS	SVL**	AREA	MIN WIDTH	MIN HEIGHT	MAX NUMBER	US GAL
Geckos	Up to 20 cm	800	20	25	1 Adult or 3 Juvenile	5
Skinks	20 to 30cm	1800	30	20	2 Adult or 10 Juvenile	20
	Over 30cm	2500	30	35	1 Adult	33
Dragons	Up to 35 cm	2100	30	35	1 Adult or 10 Juvenile	25
Monitors	Up to 50 cm	2500	30	35	2 Adult or 10 Juvenile	33
Iguanas	Up to 90 cm	6500	45	60	1 Adult	108
	Over 90 cm	10000	90	90	1 Adult	
Chameleon	Up to 8 cm	500	20	40	3	
	8 to 12cm	900	30	45	1	
	Over 12cm	1350	30	60	1	
Anoles	Up to 5 cm	800	20	25	8	5
	5 to 10cm	1200	25	30	6	10
	Over 10cm	1200	25	30	3	10
Frogs	* Small(up to 5cm)	260	12	12	1	
	Small(up to 5cm)	800	20	25	2-4	5
	Small(up to 5cm)	1200	25	30	5-8	10
	Large(over 5cm)	1200	25	30	2-4	10
	Large(over 5cm)	1800	30	30	5-6	20
Tortoises	Carapace up to 6cm	1200	25	30	8	10
Turtles	Carapace up to 10cm	1800	30	20	3	15
	Carapace 10-20cm	3600	45	30	3	40
	Carapace over 20cm	5400	45	40	3	85
Note: Pijac Canada exotic animal policy pertaining to lizards recommends 2 meter (200cm) maximum						
		SQCM	CM	CM		
SNAKES	LENGTH	AREA	MIN WIDTH	MIN HEIGHT	MAX NUMBER	US GAL
	* Up to 25cm	250	12	12	1	
	25 to 45cm	800	20	25	3	5
	45-60cm	1200	25	30	3	10
	60-100 cm	1800	30	30	2	20
	100-250cm	4000	45	45	2	40
	Over 250cm	5500	45	50	1	60
Note: Pijac Canada exotic animal policy pertaining to snakes recommends 3 meter (300cm) maximum						
*	Juvenile reptiles may be housed individually in smaller temporary holding units.					
	These individual units may be stored in one temperature controlled enclosure.					
**	SVL** Snout to Vent Length					