



## Educator's Guide to Intro to Reptiles! Daycare & Preschool Program

A wildly exciting and educational introduction to all kinds of reptiles from all kinds of places! You will meet live animals from Africa, Asia, Australia and North America while you learn snake secrets and laugh at our lizard stories. Our shows feature pythons, goofy geckos, tortoises, dragons, monitor lizards, giant boas, and other amazing exotic animals!!

The educational programs that we provide for young children focus on relating the animal to the child. We give young people a look into the wonderful world of nature through the eyes of reptiles and amphibians. Our pre-school programs focus on the diet, characteristics, and behavior of the reptiles and amphibians. Children get to touch lizards, bugs, tortoises, and snakes while learning about them and the way they live. They will learn about what these animals eat, where they like to live, what they feel like to touch! Discussion is based around body shapes and structure.

Our shows are best for smaller groups of 10-30 children. Keep in mind that the number of children you have in a show affects the amount of time each will have to interact with the animals as well as the number of animals brought out during the show. With our shows children will have a chance to ask questions, touch, and even hold some of the animals as we present the show.

### Animals you might meet in this program:

(8-12 animals in the 30-minute show; 14-18 animals in the 45-minute show)

Leopard Gecko	Fat-tail Gecko	Crested Gecko	Bullfrog
Cane Toad	Australian Tree Frog	Red-Eyed Tree Frog	Bearded Dragon
Blue Tongue Skink	Hermann's Tortoise	Leopard Tortoise	Tarantula
Scorpion	Blue Tree Monitor	Savannah Monitor	Argentine B&W Tegu
Frilled Dragon	Ball Python	Corn Snake	Rat Snake
Dumeril's Boa	Rainbow Boa	Stick Bugs	Hissing Cockroaches

For detailed information about each animal, visit our website: [www.PrairieExotics.ca](http://www.PrairieExotics.ca) and click on "Collection". You will find information on the animals we keep as well as a picture album of each.

One 30 minute show: **\$100**; each additional back to back show: **\$75**

One 45 minute show: **\$125**; each additional back to back show: **\$100**

\*You can book combinations of 30min and 45min shows and still receive discount on additional shows

\*A 25% non-refundable deposit is required at time of booking.

## **A brief overview of reptiles and amphibians:**

### ***Shared characteristics of reptiles and amphibians:***

1. Vertebrate animals that have internal skeletons made of bone.
2. Ectothermic.
3. Most do not protect their eggs or young (except crocodilians and a few others).

### ***Differences between reptiles and amphibians:***

1. The skin of amphibians is glandular, highly permeable to air and water, and is usually covered in slimy mucus. The skin of reptiles is covered in dry keratin scales and is not very permeable to air or water.
2. Amphibian eggs do not have a shell and are usually laid in water. Reptiles either lay shelled-eggs on land or give birth to live young.
3. Amphibian young are born physiologically different from their adult form and must go through metamorphosis to develop into adults. Reptiles do not go through metamorphosis.

### ***The 4 orders of the class Reptilia:***

1. Chelonia – turtles, tortoises
2. Crocodylia – alligators, caimans, crocodiles, gavials
3. Rhynchocephalia – tuatara
4. Squamata – amphisbaenians, lizards, snakes

### ***The 3 orders of the class Amphibia:***

1. Anura – frogs and toads
2. Caudata – newts and salamanders
3. Gymnophiona – caecilians

## **Vocabulary words you might hear during the Intro to Reptiles! show:**

- **Adaptation:** characteristics and behaviours that help an animal or plant survive.
- **Albino:** an animal that lacks melanin, or dark colors, on its body.
- **Amphibian:** ectothermic, vertebrate animals (frogs, salamanders & caecilians) that typically have moist, slimy skin, usually lay jelly-like eggs in water, and go through metamorphosis to become adults.
- **Amphisbaenians:** a group of elongate, snake-like reptiles.
- **Antivenin:** medicine derived from snake venom used to treat venomous snakebites.
- **Caecilians:** a group of legless, snake-like amphibians found mostly in the tropics.
- **Carnivore:** an animal that eats other animals.
- **Competition:** a demand by two or more individuals for the same resource (food, water, shelter).
- **Conservation:** protecting natural resources.
- **Deforestation:** to clear a forest of all trees and vegetation.
- **Decomposer:** animals that eat decomposing or rotting plants, animals, and animal wastes.
- **Ectothermic:** (cold blooded) an animal that has a body temperature dependent on the temperature of the environment (reptiles and amphibians are ectothermic).
- **Endothermic:** (warm blooded) an animal that has the ability to maintain its temperature above the temperature of the surrounding environment (mammals and birds are endothermic).
- **Extinct:** a species that once existed that has died out completely.
- **Fang:** a specialized tooth with a closed canal or groove that channels venom into a bite.
- **Habitat:** a combination of climate, plants, geology and other factors combined to create an animal species home.
- **Herbivore:** a plant-eating animal. Iguanas and tortoises are herbivores.
- **Herp:** a reptile or amphibian – from Latin “to creep or to crawl”.

- **Herpetology:** the scientific study of reptiles and amphibians.
- **Hibernation:** a state of inactivity or torpor, usually involving physiological changes that many animals enter to survive winter.
- **Keratin:** hard, tough material that makes up reptile scales, mammal hair, and bird feathers.
- **Metamorphosis:** a process of physiological change that some animals (including amphibians) go through to become an adult.
- **Invertebrate:** an animal that does not have a backbone or spine.
- **Natural Resources:** material supplied by nature.
- **Niche:** the position or function of an organism in a community of plants and animals.
- **Nocturnal:** animals that are active at night and sleep during the day.
- **Photosynthesis:** the ability of plants and certain other organisms to create complex organic materials (including sugar) by using sunlight, water, carbon dioxide, and inorganic salts.
- **Poisonous:** an organism that contains a substance that can cause irritation, illness, or death if another organism handles or eats it. Most amphibians are poisonous.
- **Reptile:** ectothermic, vertebrate animals (snakes, lizards, crocodilians, turtles, tuataras) that have dry, scaly skin and lay eggs with a shell or give birth to live young.
- **Species:** groups of plants or animals that reproduce young like themselves.
- **Territory:** an area within a larger environment that an individual protects from invasion from others of the same species. Iguanas will fight to protect their territory.
- **Tropics (tropical):** region of our planet lying between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, 23-27 degrees north or south of the equator.
- **Tuatara:** a reptile resembling, but not related to, a lizard – Tuataras live on islands near New Zealand.
- **Vertebrate:** an animal with a backbone or spine.
- **Vomeronasal Organ/Jacobson's Organ:** a sensory organ usually located in the roof of the mouth that helps an animal taste or smell its environment.

If you have any questions please call Prairie Exotics at **204.782.0296**. You can also visit our website [www.PrairieExotics.ca](http://www.PrairieExotics.ca) or feel free to [EmailUs@PrairieExotics.ca](mailto:EmailUs@PrairieExotics.ca)!