

# A History of Reptile Keeping in the UK



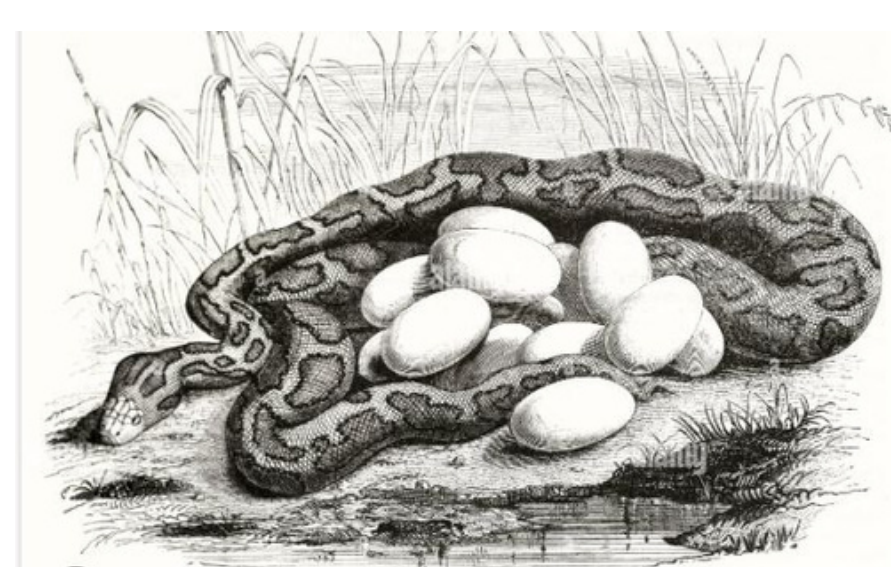
1625

The first record of a reptile being kept as a pet, a spur-thigh tortoise kept by the Bishop of London William Laud. The shell of the tortoise is on display in Lambeth Palace today.



1832

The Tower of London Menagerie moved to what is now known today as London Zoo.



1828

The first recorded breeding of an exotic reptile, this happened at the Tower of London Menagerie when a python, probably an Indian python laid 14 eggs.



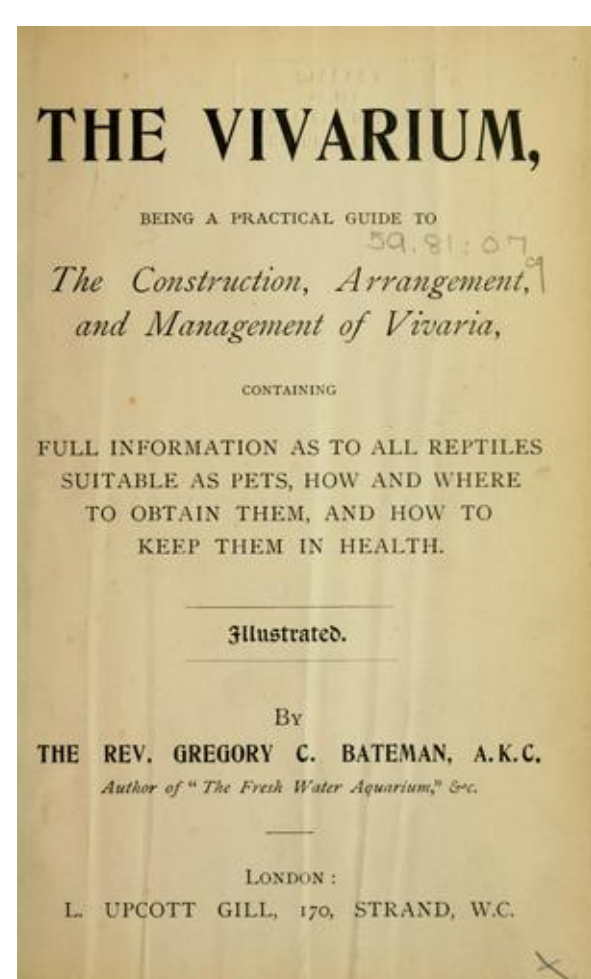
1797

The very first book detailing how to keep reptiles (and other animals) was published in German by the naturalist Johann Matthäus Bechstein.



1897

The very first book on keeping reptiles was published in the English language, The Vivarium by the naturalist Reverent Gregory C. Bateman.



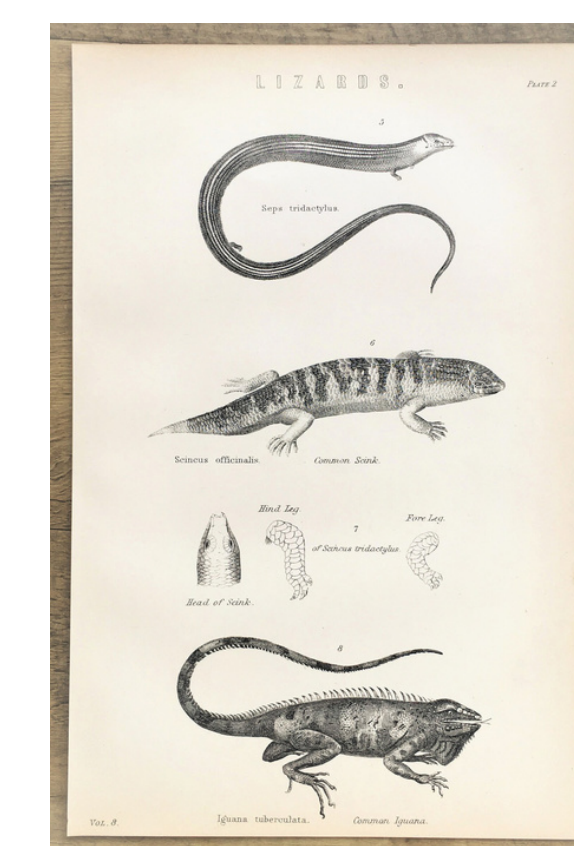
1924

The first magazine to have a section on keeping of reptiles was published, The Aquarist magazine had a section called Reptilian Review.



1931

The first known show that displayed pet reptiles was held by the Southend & District Aquatic Society, alongside fish various reptiles including pythons was shown.



1947

The British Herpetological Society was founded by Dr Malcolm A. Smith a famous herpetologist and physician.



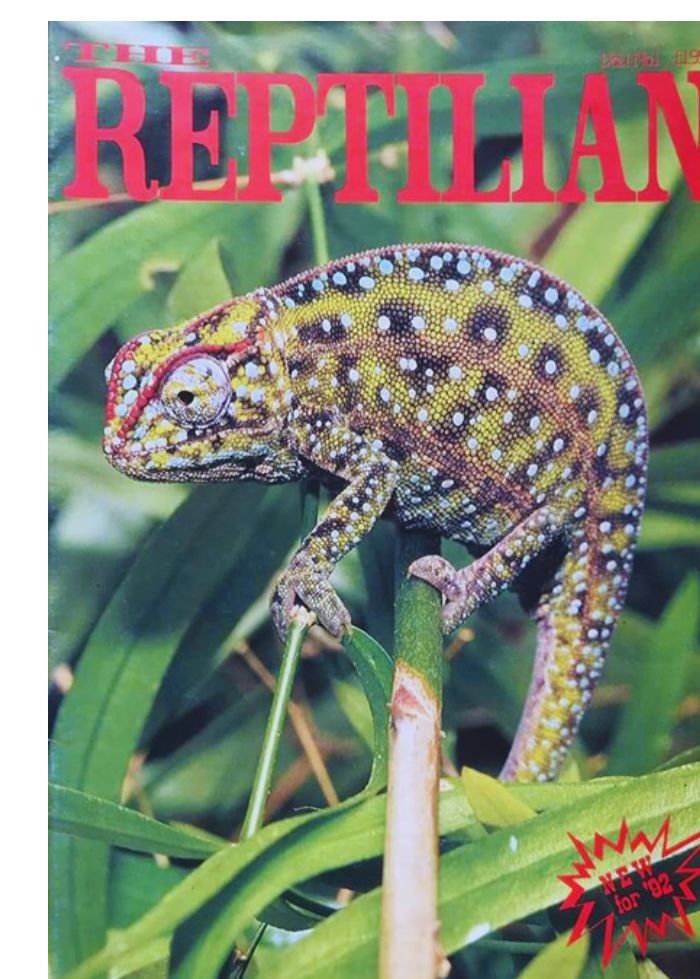
1969

The International Herpetological Society was founded by a small group of amateur herpetologists, today it's the largest society of specialist keepers.



1992

The very first monthly specialist magazine, The Reptilian was published in the UK.



1995  
FBH

The Federation of British Herpetologists was formed to unite and represent the various herpetological societies and private keepers with government.



1977

The very first specialist company to manufacture products exclusively was founded, Zoo Med, an American company that continues to sell products in the UK.



2018

The National Centre for Reptile Welfare was founded.



2005

The Reptile & Exotic Pet Trade Association was founded to represent the reptile trade and industry at government.



Today

After dogs and cats reptile are the third most common kept pets in the UK, with nearly 9 million being kept in homes across the country.

