

SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT PET REPTILE

This is a supplementary document to the podcast episode titled "**Self-Assessment for Choosing the Right Pet Reptile | Round Table 3**" on the **Animals at Home Network**.

Listen to the episode on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/nYKdvq71pzA>) or on your favorite Podcast App (<https://www.animalsathomenetwork.com/rt-3/>)

SELF-AUDIT QUESTIONS:

1. Why am I getting the reptile?

2. Am I ready to commit to keeping the reptile for its entire life?

3. Am I prepared to keep & maintain the reptile through ALL potential life changes?

4. What are my expectations of the reptile?

5. What does sharing my home with the reptile look like?

6. What can I offer the reptile?

LIFESTYLE CONSIDERATIONS:

- What stage of life are you at? Are you planning on leaving for college or moving soon? Do you plan on traveling?
 - Are your family members okay with you keeping a reptile? Are they able to help care for your reptile when you are away?
 - Do you have enough space available to accommodate the reptile at its adult size?
 - How busy is your home? Is there an area of your home with reduced foot traffic?
 - How busy is your work/school schedule? Can you dedicate time each day to care for your reptile? Can you dedicate time to interact with and/or train your reptile?
 - If you are a renter, has your landlord given you permission to keep a reptile?
 - Are you comfortable with the food required to feed your reptile?
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FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Reptiles are expensive pets, overestimate your budget! Do you have enough disposable income to continue offering proper care for the entirety of the reptile's life?
- Are you prepared to cover routine veterinary expenses?
- Are you prepared to cover any extra emergency veterinary expenses?
- An inexpensive reptile DOES NOT equal inexpensive care.
- Budget for maximum expenses, not minimum (i.e. what will this reptile cost to keep when they are a full-sized adult. This includes enclosure size, food, lighting, etc.)

SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Do detailed research of the species. Have a detailed understanding of the species natural history.
 - Does the species you would like to keep suit your personality?
 - Will the natural climate of your location or your home help or hinder your husbandry for that species? Does your home experience climate extremes such as low/high temperatures and relative humidity?
 - Handleability, do you want a reptile you can physically interact with? Or are you happy with a display reptile?
 - Does the species require brumation or winter cooling? If so, are you okay with that?
 - What is the energy level of the species? Do you want a species that is quick and agile or slow and methodical?
 - Do you want an adult or neonate? Adult reptiles are full-sized and established but may not be socialized to the level you would like. Neonates can be fragile and can be escape artists but give you the opportunity to socialize early on.
 - Connect with your local reptile community, seek mentorship.
 - How large does the species get?
 - Does your climate allow for outdoor keeping?
 - What is the average lifespan of the species you want?
 - Is the species you want rare or common within herpetoculture? If rare, are you ready for the commitment?
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OTHER TIPS

- If you already own reptiles, please appreciate, and enjoy the ones you currently have.
- Beware of impulse purchases and potential addiction to buying new animals.
<https://youtu.be/fXYfEn4puTI>