



The FBH Reptile and Amphibian keepers' survey 2022



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Chairman's comments

The FBH are pleased to publish the results from our second annual survey, and we would like to thank everyone who completed the survey. We are starting to build a consistent data series and a statistically robust evidence base of private reptile keeping in the UK.

It is increasingly important to have reliable data that can be used in discussions, presented to government groups and to counter conjecture and misinformation put out by others.

The FBH continues to have a voice in groups such as the Companion Animal Sector Council (CASC) and the Sustainable User Network (SUN) where data from our first survey has already been used in several areas including in regard to the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission (SAWC) and the Invasive Alien Species List.

Due to the increased threat to private reptile keeping in the UK it is especially important that we try to work with other organisations and collaborate where we can. As individuals we can do this by:

- Joining and supporting our local clubs and societies, as well as other groups that represent the interests of reptile keepers,
- Continuing to improve our own keeping standards and encouraging others by sharing knowledge and experience,
- Contributing to research and surveys such as this one - which we will be continuing in 2023.

We are also pleased to offer this data for researchers and others to use, and we would invite anyone who wishes to use the data from this survey to get in touch with the FBH. We will ask for an outline of your research aims, provide a simple data access agreement and if we are happy with your proposal we will provide anonymous data for you to analyse.

Dave Hayden & Jim Collins, June 2023



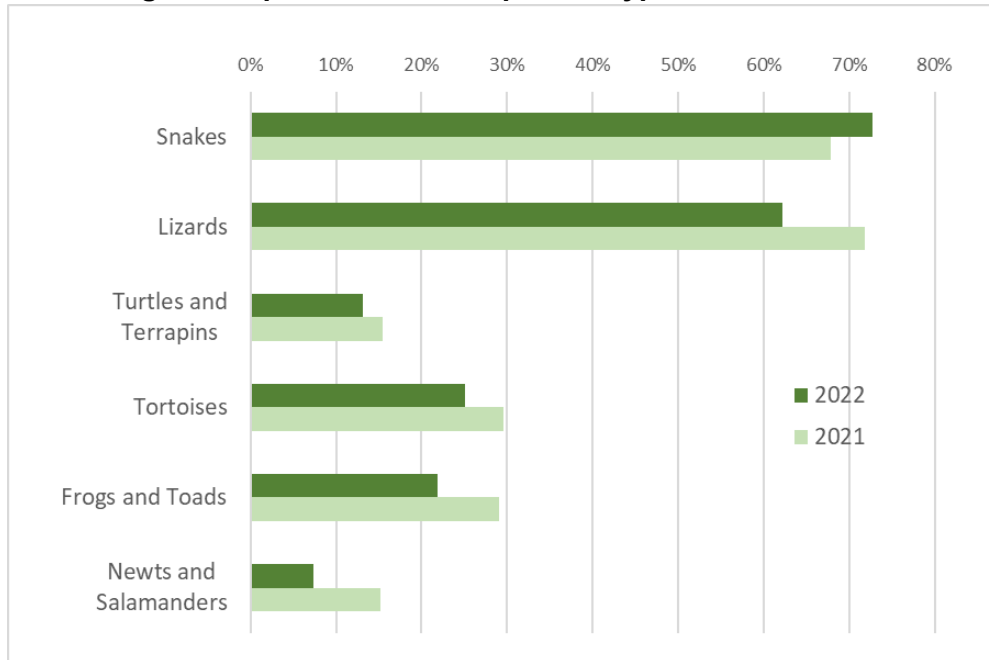
Executive Summary - 2022 FBH Survey



This survey is the second annual survey of reptile and amphibian keepers conducted by the FBH. The survey collected data from a self-selected set of reptile and amphibian keepers in the UK. In total there were 1910 respondents, compared to 2124 in 2021.

In 2022 the percentage of respondents keeping different types of animals was 73% snakes, 62% lizards, 13% turtles and terrapins, 25% tortoises, 22% frogs and toads, and 7% newts and salamanders, which is lower than the 2021 survey for all groups except snakes. It is unlikely that the prevalence of keeping these animals has dropped significantly and may be due to the nature of self-selected respondents. For example, the survey may have been completed by more specialist snake keepers in 2022 which is why snake keepers are higher, and all other groups are lower.

Figure A: Percentage of respondents who kept each type of animal, 2021-2022.



The most common species kept were generally the same species as in 2021, with the top three in each group shown below.

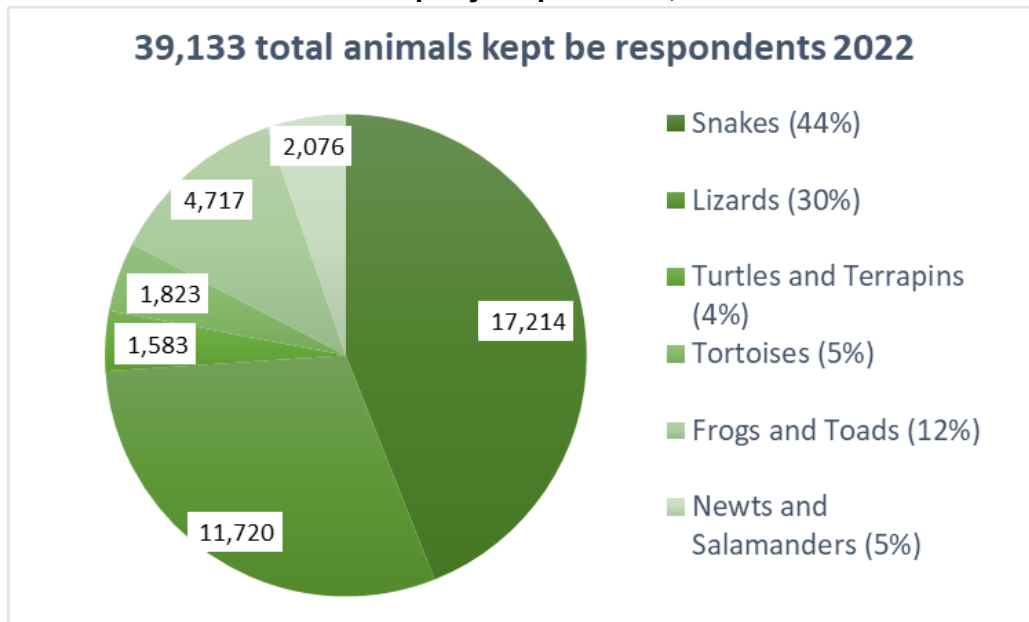
Figure B: Top 3 most commonly kept species in each group, 2022.

Snakes:	Royal Pythons Corn snakes Common boa
Lizards:	Leopard gecko Crested gecko Bearded dragon
Turtles and terrapins:	Musk turtle Yellow belly terrapin Red eared terrapin
Tortoises:	Hermans tortoise Horsfield tortoise Greek spur thigh tortoise
Frogs and toads:	Horned frog Whites tree frog African bull frog
Newts and salamanders:	Axolotl Fire salamander Marbled newt

The majority of respondents reported that their animals were captive bred (either exclusively captive bred or the majority were captive bred with a few wild caught animals). In comparison very few respondents reported that all, or the majority, of their animals were wild caught. This is similar to the 2021 survey.

The total number of animals that respondents reported keeping was 39,133 with the most numerous groups being snakes and lizards as they are also the most commonly kept groups. The number of animals in each group was 17,214 snakes, 11,720 lizards, 1,583 turtles and terrapins, 1,823 tortoises, 4,717 frogs and toads, and 2,076 newts and salamanders.

Figure C: Total number of animals kept by respondents, 2022

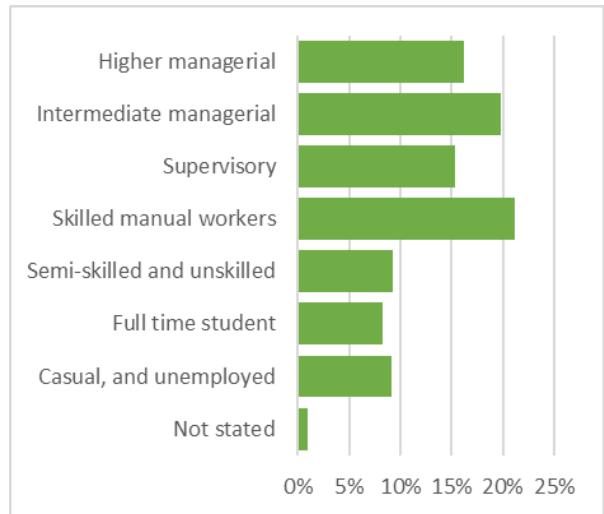
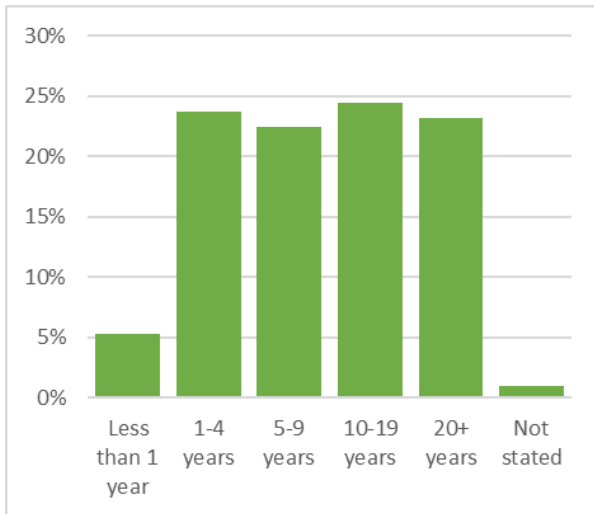
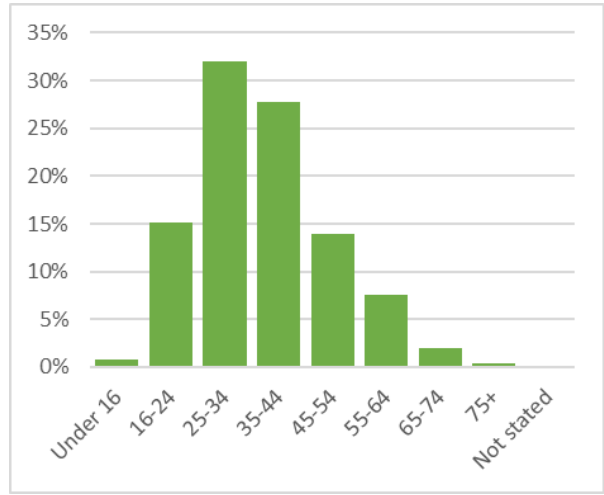
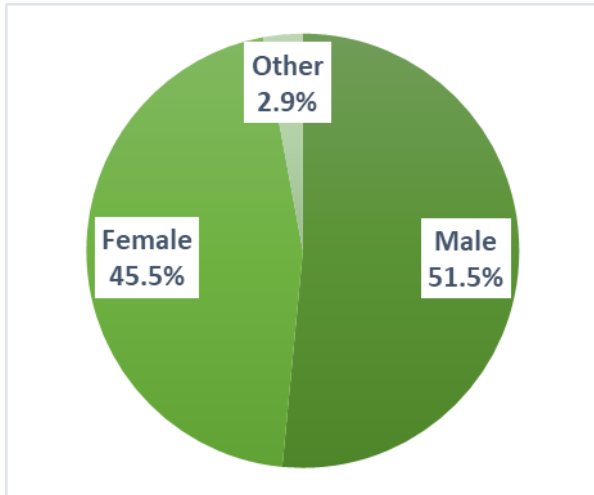


From the 2021 FBH survey we estimated that there were 8.8m reptiles and amphibians in total in the UK. This was estimated using information from our survey, the UK Pet Population survey and scaled up by the number of households in the UK (full estimate in Annex B). This analysis has not yet been replicated using the 2022 FBH survey data, because the FBH are looking to work with an independent statistician to refine this methodology so that we can produce a more robust estimate and understand the levels of uncertainty around the figure.

The 2022 survey showed that respondents were most likely to purchase a reptile from a specialist exotic pet shop, and the majority (88%) would do detailed research before acquiring a new animal. The cost of animals varied, including respondents who paid over £500 for their animals, and a high proportion of respondents who rehomed or were given animals for each type of animal. It was similar for enclosures where a lot of people mostly reused old equipment, and others paid a range of prices for their setups.

Respondents were fairly even in terms of male (52%) and female (46%), and there were respondents from all age groups with the most common groups being 25-34 years old and 35-44 years old. Respondents reported keeping reptiles from 1 year to over 20 years, with a fairly even distribution over this range. Respondents were distributed across the full range of occupations including higher managerial, skilled and semi-skilled workers, and students (see figure D).

Figure D: Top Left; Gender. Top right, Age group. Bottom left, Years keeping reptiles and amphibians. Bottom right, Occupation (simplified categories). 2022.



1. Introduction and methodology

1.1 Introduction

The 2022 FBH survey is the second annual survey of reptile and amphibian keepers in the UK, after the initial 2021 survey run jointly between the Pet Food Manufacturers Association (PFMA) and the Federation of British Herpetologists (FBH). The survey was designed to give a better understanding of reptiles and amphibians kept privately in the UK and building up trends over time.

Reptile and amphibian keepers were targeted directly such that the information provided is in relation to keepers who responded to the survey and not a sample of the general population. Given the self-selected nature of this survey we cannot know whether the results in this survey are representative of all reptile keepers in the UK. Given the difficulty and expense in identifying and contacting respondents for a population-wide randomised survey the approach used by the FBH is considered a proportionate approach which provides a depth of information that has previously been unavailable.

In total 2256 submitted responses to the survey between November 2022 and January 2023 (the survey was extended two weeks into 2023 to allow additional responses to be reported).

The survey was shared through the following routes, and the FBH incentivised responses with the chance to win one of three Amazon vouchers:

- Social media - the FBH shared the survey details through their social media and encouraged individuals to share from their personal platforms
- Shared to reptile and amphibian keeping groups and Facebook pages. These ranged from groups focused on general husbandry such as Advancing Herpetological Husbandry, Outdoor reptile keeping or Reptile Lighting Group, to specialist species groups such as Bearded dragon groups, chelonian groups etc.
- Hobbyist organisations and groups, including those that are affiliated with the FBH, such as the International Herpetological Society (IHS) and the British Herpetological Society.
- Direct contact made with retail outlets, asking them to display flyers including the QR code directing them to the survey.
- Trade organisations such as OATA and REPTA.

Of the 2256 total responses the overwhelming majority were UK based, and so the FBH have focused the analysis only on the UK respondents. Those who did not report a location or where from outside of the UK were excluded from the analysis.

1.2 Data cleaning

The full list of exclusion criteria was:

- Non-UK response, or location not stated. This excluded 232 responses.
- No demographic information (age, gender, children, occupation). Excluded 1.
- No reptiles or amphibians reported (either a total number reported was zero, or each section was left blank). This excluded 41 responses. This is a new exclusion criteria that was not used in the 2021 PFMA/FBH survey.

- Duplicate rows were excluded - this was done by matching responses on the total number of snakes, lizards, turtles and terrapins, tortoises, frogs and toads, newts and salamanders AND how long been keeping, gender, age, occupation, country. Identical rows were removed and a further visual check of the matches was done for the date of survey completion and whether the species listed differed. Checking for duplicates involved some subjectivity because the animals listed in some cases were similar but not identical - perhaps new animals had been purchased and the respondent wanted to update their submission or had forgotten to include an animal. Google forms offered some protection from duplicates as it will not allow additional submissions from the same account. This excluded 87 responses. This was a new exclusion criteria that was not used in the 2021 PFMA/FBH survey

This gave a final cohort of 1910 responses - slightly lower than the 2021 survey (2,124 responses) - but still a large set of information from reptile and amphibian keepers.

This report will be set out slightly differently to the 2021 report - which set out the result by survey question. While this report will present results by animal group, e.g., snakes, lizards, etc.

2. Snakes



Of the respondents in 2022 a higher proportion kept snakes compared to the 2021 survey (73% compared to 68%).

The top 5 most common species kept were Royal pythons, Corn snakes, Common boas, Western hognose snakes and Reticulated pythons. This is the same as the top 5 species from 2021 although in 2021 the survey asked for hognose snakes generally, rather than specifying Western hognose snakes so the tables are not fully comparable.

Twenty-nine per cent reported keeping a species other than those listed in the table below, which is very similar to the 2021 survey (28%). The full list of species kept is provided in the appendix.

In total, there were over 17,000 individual snakes kept by respondents, with an average of 12.4 snakes per snake-keeping respondents. This is higher than the 2021 survey which had an average of 10.5 snakes per snake-keeping respondents. Of the 17,000 snakes, 2,566 were corn snakes and 5,416 were royal pythons.

The majority of snake keepers (84%) reported that their snakes were all captive bred, with a further 8% reporting that the majority of their snakes were captive bred. A total of 5% of respondents reported that their snakes were either a mixture of captive bred and wild caught, mostly wild caught or all wild caught. This is lower than the proportion of snake keepers who reported that their animals were captive bred in the 2021 survey.

The majority of respondents mostly kept their snakes in wooden or plastic vivaria (78%) with 9% reporting keeping their snakes in plastic tubs/boxes (including respondents who reported

keeping snakes in racks). This compares to the 2021 survey where 69% of respondents reported using wooden or plastic vivaria and 18% using plastic box/tubs or a tray/draw system.

There was a wide spread of prices paid for snakes, with the majority between £50 and £199, and 10% reported paying £500 or over for their snake. Twenty-one per cent of respondents did not obtain a new snake in the previous 12 months and 5% were given or rehomed their snake for no charge. This wide spread of prices was observed in the 2021 survey.

The cost of housing/set up for a new snake also varied. Twenty-three per cent of respondents reported not obtaining a snake in the previous 12 months (slightly inconsistent with the previous question) and 19% mostly re-used existing equipment. There were 8% who reported spending £500 or over on their new set up. This is similar to the 2021 survey where 15% reported re-using old equipment and 12% reported spending £500 or over on a new set up.

Table 2.1: Do you keep one or more snakes?

2022			2021		
	Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Total N	1910	100%	Total N	2124	100%
Do you keep one or more snakes?			Do you keep one or more snakes?		
Yes	1390	73%	Yes	1442	68%
No	520	27%	No	682	32%

Table 2.2: Which types of snakes do you own?

	1910	100%
Total N	1910	100%
Do you keep one or more snakes?		
Yes	1390	73%
No	520	27%
Which species		
Royal python (<i>Python regius</i>)	737	39%
Corn snake (<i>Pantherophis guttatus</i>)	582	30%
Common boa (<i>Boa imperator</i>)	355	19%
Western hognose snake (<i>Heterodon nasicus</i>)	342	18%
Reticulated python (<i>Malayopython reticulatus</i>)	155	8%
Milk snake (<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>)	146	8%
Mexican black kingsnake (<i>Lampropeltis getula nigrita</i>)	135	7%
Burmese python (<i>Python bivittatus</i>)	109	6%
Common garter snake (<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>)	50	3%
Not stated	32	2%
Other	546	29%

Table 2.3; In total how many snakes do you have?

Total (N)	1910	100%
Total not owning All Snakes	520	27%
Total who own All Snakes	1390	73%
Total All Snakes owned by respondents	17214	
Average All Snakes per household	12.4	
Median (25th and 75th percentile)	4.0	(2.0, 11.0)

How many snakes are owned by those who keep them:

Number of snakes	Count	%
1	281	20%
2	207	15%
3	134	10%
4	102	7%
5	91	7%
6	73	5%
7	40	3%
8	40	3%
9	30	2%
10	37	3%
11-15	97	7%
16-20	71	5%
21-30	59	4%
31-50	59	4%
51-100	48	4%
101-200	18	1%
201-300	2	0.1%
301-400	1	0.1%

Table 2.4; How many corn snakes do you have?

Total (N)	1910	
Total not owning Corn snakes	1293	68%
Total who own Corn snakes	617	32%
Total Corn snakes owned by respondents	2566	
Average Corn snakes per household	4.2	
How many corn snakes are owned by those who keep them:		
Number of snakes	Count	%
1	320	52%
2	128	21%
3	46	7%
4	19	3%
5	19	3%
6	12	2%
7	13	2%
8	4	1%
9	2	0%
10	5	1%
11-15	16	3%
16-20	9	1%
21-50	19	3%
51-100	5	1%

Table 2.5; How many Royal pythons do you have?

Total (N)	1910		
Total not owning Royal pythons	1143	60%	
Total who own Royal pythons	767	40%	
Total Royal pythons owned by respondents	5416		
Average Royal pythons per household	7.1		
How many royal pythons are owned by those who keep them:			
	Number	Count	%
	1	324	53%
	2	148	24%
	3	51	8%
	4	36	6%
	5	25	4%
	6	25	4%
	7	7	1%
	8	14	2%
	9	11	2%
	10	9	1%
	11-15	38	5%
	16-20	23	3%
	21-30	15	2%
	31-40	8	1%
	41-50	12	2%
	51-100	16	2%
	101-200	5	1%

Table 2.6; Thinking about the snakes that you own, which of the following statements best describe them?

Total (N)	1910	
Total not owning Snakes	520	27%
Total who own Snakes	1390	73%
Of those who own snakes:		
Response	Count	%
My snake(s) are all captive bred	1167	84%
My snake(s) are mostly captive bred, with a few wild caught	107	8%
My snake(s) are a mixture of captive bred and wild caught in about equal numbers	31	2%
My snake(s) are mostly wild caught, with a few captive bred	19	1%
None of the snake(s) I own are captive bred	27	2%
I don't know if the snake(s) I own are wild caught or captive bred	36	3%

Table 2.7; What kind of housing do you mostly keep your snake(s) in?

Source	Number	Percentage
Total	1910	
Total not owning Snakes	520	27%
Total who own Snakes	1390	73%
Of those who keep Snakes:		
Wooden vivarium	985	71%
Plastic vivarium	100	7%
Glass terrarium	108	8%
Tortoise table	5	0%
Outdoors	12	1%
Plastic tank/pond	7	1%
Plastic tub/box tank	131	9%
Aquarium	0	0%
Room/walk in enclosure	9	1%
Greenhouse	5	0%
Mesh enclosure	1	0%
Mixed	18	1%
Other	4	0%
Not stated	5	0%

*Plastic tub/box tank includes racks and racking systems

Table 2.8; Thinking about your most recent snake; if you obtained it in the last 12 months, how much did you spend on the animal itself?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Snakes	520	27%
Total who own Snakes	1390	73%
Of those who keep Snakes		
£0-9	41	3%
£10-49	74	5%
£50-99	149	11%
£100-149	156	11%
£150-199	136	10%
£200-249	108	8%
£250-299	71	5%
£300-499	83	6%
£500+	140	10%
Given or rehomed for no charge	70	5%
I did not obtain Snakes in the last 12 months	287	21%
Not stated	75	5%

Table 2.9; Thinking about your most recent snake; if you obtained it in the last 12 months, how much did you spend on the set up (e.g., housing, heaters, thermostats) for the animal?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Snakes	520	27%
Total who own Snakes	1390	73%
Of those who keep Snakes		
£0-9	21	2%
£10-49	38	3%
£50-99	60	4%
£100-149	99	7%
£150-199	96	7%
£200-249	104	7%
£250-299	116	8%
£300-499	124	9%
£500+	115	8%
Mostly reused old equipment	260	19%
I did not obtain Snakes in the last 12 months	320	23%
Not stated	37	3%

Table 2.10; Thinking about your snake(s), how old is the oldest individual?

Total	1910	
Total not owning Snakes	520	27%
Total who own Snakes	1390	73%
Of those who keep snakes:		
Response (years)	Count	%
1	104	7%
2	92	7%
3	96	7%
4	91	7%
5	104	7%
6	92	7%
7	85	6%
8	89	6%
9	62	4%
10	103	7%
11-15	249	18%
16-20	109	8%
21-30	64	5%
31-40	11	1%
41-50	0	0%
51-60	1	0%
91+	1	0%
Don't know	33	2%
Not stated	4	0%

3. Lizards



Of the respondents in 2022 a lower proportion reported keeping lizards compared to the 2021 survey (62% compared to 72%). It is unclear whether this is a real decline in lizard keeping or due to the nature of a self-selecting survey that reached a slightly different group of respondents.

The top 5 most common species kept were Leopard gecko, Crested gecko, Bearded dragon, Blue tongue skink and Spiny tailed monitor (Ackie monitor). This is the same as the top 5 species from 2021 although in 2021 the survey asked for small monitor species generally, rather than specifying spiny tailed monitors so the tables are not fully comparable.

Twenty-seven per cent reported keeping a species other than those listed in the table below, which is very similar to the 2021 survey (28%). The full list of species kept is provided in the appendix.

In total, there were over 11,000 individual lizards kept by respondents, with an average of 9.9 lizards per lizard-keeping respondents. This is higher than the 2021 survey which had an average of 7.3 lizards per lizard-keeping respondent. Of the 11,000 lizards, 1,863 were Leopard geckos and 2,392 were Crested geckos.

The majority of lizard keepers (78%) reported that their lizards were all captive bred, with a further 9% reporting that the majority of their lizards were captive bred. A total of 8% of respondents reported that their lizards were either a mixture of captive bred and wild caught, mostly wild caught or all wild caught.

The majority of respondents mostly kept their lizards in wooden or plastic vivaria (57%) and 33% reported keeping their lizards in glass terrariums. This compares to the 2021 survey where 53% of respondents reported using wooden or plastic vivaria and 37% using glass terrariums.

There was a wide spread of prices paid for lizards, with the majority between £50 and £199 (20%), and 7% reported paying £500 or over for their lizard. Twenty-three per cent of respondents did not obtain a new lizard in the previous 12 months and 7% were given or rehomed their lizard for no charge. This wide spread of prices was observed in the 2021 survey.

The cost of housing/set up for a new lizard also varied. Twenty-five per cent of respondents reported not obtaining a lizard in the previous 12 months (slightly inconsistent with the previous question) and 14% mostly re-used existing equipment. There were 11% who reported spending £500 or over on their new set up. This is similar to the 2021 survey where 15% reported re-using old equipment and 12% reported spending £500 or over on a new set up.

Table 3.1: Do you keep one or more lizards?

2022			2021		
	Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Total N	1910	100%	Total N	2124	100%
Do you keep one or more lizards?			Do you keep one or more lizards?		
Yes	1187	62%	Yes	1527	72%
No	723	38%	No	597	28%

Table 3.2: Which types of lizards do you own?

Total N	1910	100%
Do you keep one or more lizards?		
	Yes 1187	62%
	No 723	38%
<hr/>		
Which species		
Leopard gecko (<i>Eublepharis macularius</i>)	494	26%
Crested gecko (<i>Correlophus ciliatus</i>)	450	24%
Bearded dragon (<i>Pogona vitticeps</i>)	406	21%
Blue tongue skink (<i>Tiliqua scincoides</i>)	129	7%
Spiny tailed monitor (<i>Varanus acanthurus</i>)	101	5%
Yemen/veiled chameleon (<i>Chamaeleo calyptratus</i>)	88	5%
Panther chameleon (<i>Furcifer pardalis</i>)	77	4%
Black and white tegu (<i>Salvator merianae</i>)	98	5%
Green iguana (<i>Iguana iguana</i>)	53	3%
Chinese water dragon (<i>Physignathus cocincinus</i>)	47	2%
Not stated	24	1%
Other	514	27%

Table 3.3; In total how many lizards do you have?

Total (N)	1910	100%	
Total not owning All Lizards	723	38%	
Total who own All Lizards	1187	62%	
Total All Lizards owned by respondents	11720		
Average All Lizards per household	9.9		
Median (25th and 75th percentile)	3.0	(1.0, 8.0)	
How many lizards are owned by those who keep them:			
	Number of lizards	Count	%
	1	325	27%
	2	175	15%
	3	132	11%
	4	90	8%
	5	61	5%
	6	52	4%
	7	39	3%
	8	30	3%
	9	29	2%
	10	29	2%
	11-15	72	6%
	16-20	34	3%
	21-30	35	3%
	31-50	42	4%
	51-100	32	3%
	101-200	6	1%
	201-300	3	0%
	301+	1	0%

Table 3.4; How many Leopard geckos do you have?

Total (N)	1910	100%	
Total not owning Leopard geckos	1387	73%	
Total who own Leopard geckos	523	27%	
Total Leopard geckos owned by respondents	1863		
Average Leopard geckos per household	3.6		
How many leopard geckos are owned by those who keep them:			
	Number	Count	%
	1	266	51%
	2	110	21%
	3	36	7%
	4	22	4%
	5	15	3%
	6	18	3%
	7	6	1%
	8	8	2%
	9	3	1%
	10	10	2%
	11-15	9	2%
	16-20	6	1%
	21-30	7	1%
	31-50	5	1%
	51-100	2	0%

Table 3.5; How many Bearded dragons do you have?

Total (N)	1910		
Total not owning Bearded dragons	1493		78%
Total who own Bearded dragons	417		22%
Total Bearded dragons owned by respondents	829		
Average Bearded dragons per household	2.0		
How many bearded dragons are owned by those who keep them:			
	Number	Count	%
	1	269	65%
	2	85	20%
	3	30	7%
	4	7	2%
	5	4	1%
	6	5	1%
	7	3	1%
	8	3	1%
	9	1	0%
	10	5	1%
	11-15	2	0%
	16-20	1	0%
	21-50	1	0%
	51+	1	0%

Table 3.6; How many Crested geckos do you have?

Total (N)	1910	100%	
Total not owning Crested geckos	1449	76%	
Total who own Crested geckos	461	24%	
Total Crested geckos owned by respondents	2392		
Average Crested geckos per household	5.2		
How many crested geckos are owned by those who keep them:			
	Number	Count	%
	1	212	46%
	2	107	23%
	3	35	8%
	4	24	5%
	5	13	3%
	6	10	2%
	7	4	1%
	8	2	0%
	9	4	1%
	10	7	2%
	11-15	13	3%
	16-20	8	2%
	21-30	10	2%
	31-50	4	1%
	51-100	7	2%
	101+	1	0%

Table 3.7; Thinking about the lizards that you own, which of the following statements best describe them?

Total (N)	1910	
Total not owning Lizards	723	38%
Total who own Lizards	1187	62%
Of those who own Lizards:		
Response	Count	%
My lizard(s) are all captive bred	930	78%
My lizard(s) are mostly captive bred, with a few wild caught	109	9%
My lizard(s) are a mixture of captive bred and wild caught in about equal numbers	33	3%
My lizard(s) are mostly wild caught, with a few captive bred	26	2%
None of the lizard(s) I own are captive bred	33	3%
I don't know if the lizard(s) I own are wild caught or captive bred	52	4%
Not stated	4	0%

Table 3.8; What kind of housing do you mostly keep your lizard(s) in?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Lizards	723	38%
Total who own Lizards	1187	62%
Of those who keep Lizards		
Wooden vivarium	629	53%
Plastic vivarium	51	4%
Glass terrarium	394	33%
Tortoise table	2	0%
Outdoors	11	1%
Plastic tank/pond	2	0%
Plastic tub/box tank	15	1%
Aquarium	0	0%
Room/walk in enclosure	16	1%
Greenhouse	3	0%
Mesh enclosure	17	1%
Mixed	35	3%
Other	9	1%
Not stated	3	0%

*Plastic tub/box tank includes racks and racking systems

Table 3.9; Thinking about your most recent lizard; if you obtained it in the last 12 months, how much did you spend on the animal itself?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Lizards	723	38%
Total who own Lizards	1187	62%
Of those who keep Lizards		
£0-9	71	6%
£10-49	91	8%
£50-99	145	12%
£100-149	100	8%
£150-199	86	7%
£200-249	64	5%
£250-299	44	4%
£300-499	74	6%
£500+	89	7%
Given or rehomed for no charge	80	7%
I did not obtain Lizards in the last 12 months	268	23%
Not stated	75	6%

Table 3.10; Thinking about your most recent lizard; if you obtained it in the last 12 months, how much did you spend on the set up (e.g., housing, heaters, thermostats) for the animal?

Source	Number	Percentage
Total	1910	
Total not owning Lizards	723	38%
Total who own Lizards	1187	62%
Of those who keep Lizards		
£0-9	23	2%
£10-49	18	2%
£50-99	50	4%
£100-149	89	7%
£150-199	79	7%
£200-249	103	9%
£250-299	84	7%
£300-499	106	9%
£500+	135	11%
Mostly reused old equipment	162	14%
I did not obtain Lizards in the last 12 months	293	25%
Not stated	45	4%

Table 3.11; Thinking about your lizard(s), how old is the oldest individual?

Total	1910	
Total not owning Lizards	723	38%
Total who own Lizards	1187	62%
Of those who keep lizards:		
Response	Count	%
1	113	10%
2	120	10%
3	126	11%
4	110	9%
5	100	8%
6	98	8%
7	80	7%
8	81	7%
9	56	5%
10	60	5%
11-15	114	10%
16-20	48	4%
21-30	27	2%
31-40	10	1%
41-50	2	0%
51-60	0	0%
Don't know	30	3%
Not stated	12	1%

4. Turtles and Terrapins



Of the respondents in 2022 a lower proportion reported keeping turtles and terrapins compared to the 2021 survey (13% compared to 15%). It is unclear whether this is a real decline in turtle and terrapin keeping or due to the nature of a self-selecting survey that reached a slightly different group of respondents.

The top 5 most common species kept were Musk turtle, Red eared terrapin, Yellow belly terrapin, Common box turtle and Common snapping turtle. This is the same as the top 5 species from 2021 although in 2021 the survey asked for box turtles and snapping turtles generally, rather than specifically *Terrapene carolina* and *Chelydra serpentina* so the tables are not fully comparable.

Four per cent reported keeping a species other than those listed in the table below, which is very similar to the 2021 survey (3%). The full list of species kept is provided in the appendix.

In total, there were over 1583 individual turtles and terrapins kept by respondents, with an average of 6.3 turtles and terrapins per turtle-keeping respondents. This is higher than the 2021 survey which had an average of 5.8 turtles and terrapins per turtle and terrapin keeping respondent.

The majority of turtle and terrapin keepers (61%) reported that their turtles and terrapins were all captive bred, with a further 10% reporting that the majority of their turtles and terrapins were captive bred. A total of 13% of respondents reported that their turtles and terrapins were either a mixture of captive bred and wild caught, mostly wild caught or all wild caught.

The majority of respondents mostly kept their turtles and terrapins in glass terrariums (48%) and a further 17% reported keeping their turtles and terrapins in plastic tanks/ponds and 11% reported keeping their turtles and terrapins outside. This compares to the 2021 survey where 28% of respondents reported using glass terrariums and 28% using plastic tanks/ponds.

There was a wide spread of prices paid for turtles and terrapins, with the majority between £10 and £99 (22%), and 2% reported paying £500 or over for their turtle or terrapin. Twenty-two per cent of respondents did not obtain a new turtle or terrapin in the previous 12 months and 11% were given or rehomed their turtle or terrapin for no charge. This wide spread of prices was also observed in the 2021 survey.

The cost of housing/set up for a new turtle or terrapin also varied. Twenty-eight per cent of respondents reported not obtaining a turtle or terrapin in the previous 12 months (slightly inconsistent with the previous question) and 14% mostly re-used existing equipment. There were 4% who reported spending £500 or over on their new set up. This is slightly different to the 2021 survey where 23% reported re-using old equipment and 9% reported spending £500 or over on a new set up.

Table 4.1: Do you keep one or more turtle or terrapin?

2022			2021		
	Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Total N	1910	100%	Total N	2124	100%
Do you keep one or more turtle or terrapin?			Do you keep one or more turtle or terrapin?		
Yes	250	13%	Yes	328	15%
No	1660	87%	No	1796	85%

Table 4.2: Which types of turtles and terrapins do you own?

Total N	1910	100%
Do you keep one or more turtle or terrapin?		
Yes	250	13%
No	1660	87%
Which species		
Musk turtle (<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>)	104	5%
Red eared terrapin (<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>)	45	2%
Yellow belly terrapin (<i>Trachemys scripta scripta</i>)	63	3%
Chinese softshell turtle (<i>Pelodiscus sinensis</i>)	21	1%
Common box turtle (<i>Terrapene carolina</i>)	41	2%
Common snapping turtle (<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>)	22	1%
Common long necked turtle (<i>Chelodina longicollis</i>)	10	1%
Not stated	8	0%
Other	73	4%

Table 4.3; In total how many turtles and terrapins do you have?

Total (N)	1910	
Total not owning Turtles and Terrapins	1660	87%
Total who own Turtles and Terrapins	250	13%
Total Turtles and Terrapins owned by respondents	1583	
Average Turtles and Terrapins per household	6.3	
Median (25th and 75th percentile)	2.0	(1.0, 5.0)
How many Turtles and Terrapins are owned by those who keep them:		
	Number	Count
	1	78
	2	60
	3	26
	4	22
	5	20
	6	15
	7	2
	8	2
	9	3
	10	2
	11-15	5
	16-20	4
	21-30	5
	31-50	2
	51-100	0
	101-150	2
	151+	2
		%
		31%
		24%
		10%
		9%
		8%
		6%
		1%
		1%
		1%
		1%
		2%
		2%
		2%
		1%
		0%
		1%
		0%

Table 4.4; Thinking about the turtles and terrapins that you own, which of the following statements best describe them?

Total (N)	1910	
Total not owning Turtles and Terrapins	1660	87%
Total who own Turtles and Terrapins	250	13%
Of those who own Turtles and Terrapins:		
Response	Count	%
My turtles and terrapins are all captive bred	152	61%
My turtles and terrapins are mostly captive bred, with a few wild caught	24	10%
My turtles and terrapins are a mixture of captive bred and wild caught in about equal numbers	13	5%
My turtles and terrapins are mostly wild caught, with a few captive bred	9	4%
None of the turtles and terrapins I own are captive bred	11	4%
I don't know if the turtles and terrapins I own are wild caught or captive bred	38	15%
Not stated	3	1%

Table 4.5; What kind of housing do you mostly keep your turtles and terrapins in?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Turtles and Terrapins	1660	87%
Total who own Turtles and Terrapins	250	13%
<hr/>		
Of those who keep Turtles and Terrapins		
Wooden vivarium	9	4%
Plastic vivarium	7	3%
Glass terrarium	119	48%
Tortoise table	6	2%
Outdoors	28	11%
Plastic tank/pond	42	17%
Plastic tub/box tank	13	5%
Aquarium	0	0%
Room/walk in enclosure	7	3%
Greenhouse	7	3%
Mesh enclosure	0	0%
Mixed	3	1%
Other	3	1%
Not stated	6	2%

*Plastic tub/box tank includes racks and racking systems

Table 4.6; Thinking about your most recent turtle or terrapin; if you obtained it in the last 12 months, how much did you spend on the animal itself?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Turtles and Terrapins	1660	87%
Total who own Turtles and Terrapins	250	13%
Of those who keep Turtles and Terrapins		
£0-9	21	8%
£10-49	27	11%
£50-99	27	11%
£100-149	21	8%
£150-199	12	5%
£200-249	14	6%
£250-299	7	3%
£300-499	12	5%
£500+	4	2%
Given or rehomed for no charge	27	11%
I did not obtain Turtles and Terrapins in the last 12 months	56	22%
Not stated	22	9%

Table 4.7; Thinking about your most recent turtle or terrapin; if you obtained it in the last 12 months, how much did you spend on the set up (e.g., housing, heaters, thermostats) for the animal?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Turtles and Terrapins	1660	87%
Total who own Turtles and Terrapins	250	13%
Of those who keep Turtles and Terrapins		
£0-9	9	4%
£10-49	21	8%
£50-99	25	10%
£100-149	16	6%
£150-199	19	8%
£200-249	8	3%
£250-299	11	4%
£300-499	14	6%
£500+	11	4%
Mostly reused old equipment	35	14%
I did not obtain Turtles and Terrapins in the last 12 months	69	28%
Not stated	12	5%

Table 4.8; Thinking about your turtles and terrapins, how old is the oldest individual?

Total	1910	
Total not owning Turtles and Terrapins	1660	87%
Total who own Turtles and Terrapins	250	13%
Of those who keep turtles and terrapins:		
Response	Count	%
1	21	8%
2	29	12%
3	22	9%
4	20	8%
5	14	6%
6	19	8%
7	11	4%
8	9	4%
9	3	1%
10	13	5%
11-15	28	11%
16-20	10	4%
21-30	11	4%
31-40	5	2%
41-50	7	3%
51-60	3	1%
61-70	4	2%
71-80	1	0%
Don't know	18	7%
Not stated	2	1%

5. Tortoises



Of the respondents in 2022 a lower proportion reported keeping tortoises compared to the 2021 survey (25% compared to 30%). It is unclear whether this is a real decline in tortoise keeping or due to the nature of a self-selecting survey that reached a slightly different group of respondents.

The top 5 most common species kept were Hermans tortoise, Horsfield tortoise, Greek spur thigh tortoise, Redfoot tortoise, African spur thigh tortoise. This is the same as the top 5 species from 2021 although in 2021 the survey asked for redfoot/yellow foot tortoises rather than specifically redfoot tortoises.

Two per cent reported keeping a species other than those listed in the table below, which is the same as the 2021 survey. The full list of species kept is provided in the appendix.

In total, there were over 1823 individual tortoises kept by respondents, with an average of 3.8 tortoises per tortoise-keeping respondent. This is very similar to the 2021 survey which had an average of 3.6 tortoises per tortoise-keeping respondent.

The majority of tortoise keepers (73%) reported that their tortoises were all captive bred, with a further 6% reporting that the majority of their tortoises were captive bred. A total of 12% of respondents reported that their tortoises were either a mixture of captive bred and wild caught, mostly wild caught or all wild caught.

The majority of respondents mostly kept their tortoises on tortoise tables (29%) and a further 26% reported keeping their tortoises in wooden vivaria. Fourteen per cent reported keeping their tortoises outside. This compares to the 2021 survey where 37% of respondents reported using tortoise tables and 31% outside.

There was a wide spread of prices paid for tortoises, with the majority between £100 and £199 (19%), and 2% reported paying £500 or over for their tortoise. Thirty-seven per cent of respondents did not obtain a new tortoise in the previous 12 months and 9% were given or rehomed their tortoise for no charge. This wide spread of prices was also observed in the 2021 survey.

The cost of housing/set up for a new tortoise also varied. Thirty-eight per cent of respondents reported not obtaining a tortoise in the previous 12 months (slightly inconsistent with the previous question) and 10% mostly re-used existing equipment. There were 6% who reported spending £500 or over on their new set up. This is slightly different to the 2021 survey where 17% reported re-using old equipment and 10% reported spending £500 or over on a new set up.

Table 5.1: Do you keep one or more tortoises?

2022			2021		
	Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Total N	1910	100%	Total N	2124	100%
Do you keep one or more tortoises?			Do you keep one or more tortoises?		
Yes	480	25%	Yes	627	30%
No	1430	75%	No	1497	70%

Table 5.2: Which types of tortoises do you own?

Total N	1910	100%
Do you keep one or more tortoise?		
Yes	480	25%
No	1430	75%
Which species		
Hermans tortoise (<i>Testudo hermanni</i>)	198	10%
Horsfield tortoise (<i>Testudo horsfieldii</i>)	165	9%
Greek spur thigh tortoise (<i>Testudo graeca</i>)	79	4%
Marginated tortoise (<i>Testudo marginata</i>)	53	3%
African spur thigh tortoise (<i>Centrochelys sulcata</i>)	58	3%
Leopard tortoise (<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>)	43	2%
Indian star tortoise (<i>Geochelone elegans</i>)	28	1%
Redfoot tortoise (<i>Chelonoidis carbonarius</i>)	60	3%
Radiated tortoise (<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>)	18	1%
Not stated	0	0%
Other	35	2%

Table 5.3: In total, how many individual tortoises do you have?

Total (N)	1910		
Total not owning All Tortoises	1430	75%	
Total who own All Tortoises	480	25%	
Total All Tortoises owned by respondents	1823		
Average All Tortoises per household	3.8		
Median (25th and 75th percentile)	2.0	(1.0, 4.0)	
How many tortoises are owned by those who keep them:			
	Number	Count	%
	1	222	46%
	2	94	20%
	3	41	9%
	4	25	5%
	5	22	5%
	6	13	3%
	7	5	1%
	8	14	3%
	9	3	1%
	10	7	1%
	11	4	1%
	12	4	1%
	13	3	1%
	14	3	1%
	15	2	0%
	16-20	5	1%
	21-30	6	1%
	31-50	5	1%
	51+	2	0%

Table 5.4: In particular, how many Mediterranean tortoises (e.g. Hermans, Greek spur thigh, Marginated or Horsfield tortoise) do you keep?

Total (N)	1910		
Total not owning Mediterranean Tortoises	1537	80%	
Total who own Mediterranean Tortoises	373	20%	
Total Mediterranean Tortoises owned by respondents	1095		
Average Mediterranean Tortoises per household	2.9		
How many Mediterranean tortoises are owned by those who keep them:			
	Number	Count	%
	1	192	51%
	2	73	20%
	3	40	11%
	4	18	5%
	5	12	3%
	6	12	3%
	7	3	1%
	8	4	1%
	9	1	0%
	10	2	1%
	11	1	0%
	13	1	0%
	14	4	1%
	15	2	1%
	16	1	0%
	20	1	0%
	21+	6	2%

Table 5.5: Thinking about the tortoises that you own, which of the following statements best describe them?

Total (N)	1910	
Total not owning Tortoises	1430	75%
Total who own Tortoises	480	25%
Of those who own Tortoises:		
Response	Count	%
My tortoise(s) are all captive bred	351	73%
My tortoise(s) are mostly captive bred, with a few wild caught	29	6%
My tortoise(s) are a mixture of captive bred and wild caught in about equal numbers	22	5%
My tortoise(s) are mostly wild caught, with a few captive bred	20	4%
None of the tortoise(s) I own are captive bred	17	4%
I don't know if the tortoise(s) I own are wild caught or captive bred	39	8%
Not stated	2	0%

Table 5.6: What kind of housing do you mostly keep your tortoises in?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Tortoises	1430	75%
Total who own Tortoises	480	25%
Of those who keep Tortoises		
Wooden vivarium	124	26%
Plastic vivarium	8	2%
Glass terrarium	28	6%
Tortoise table	141	29%
Outdoors	68	14%
Plastic tank/pond	10	2%
Plastic tub/box tank	3	1%
Aquarium	0	0%
Room/walk in enclosure	57	12%
Greenhouse	14	3%
Mesh enclosure	4	1%
Mixed	14	3%
Other	9	2%
Not stated	0	0%

*Plastic tub/box tank includes racks and racking systems

5.7: Thinking about your most recent tortoise; if you obtained it in the last 12 months, how much did you spend on the animal itself?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Tortoises	1430	75%
Total who own Tortoises	480	25%
Of those who keep Tortoises		
£0-9	24	5%
£10-49	17	4%
£50-99	27	6%
£100-149	49	10%
£150-199	44	9%
£200-249	22	5%
£250-299	14	3%
£300-499	10	2%
£500+	9	2%
Given or rehomed for no charge	43	9%
I did not obtain Tortoises in the last 12 months	176	37%
Not stated	45	9%

Table 5.8: Thinking about your most recent tortoise; if you obtained it in the last 12 months, how much did you spend on the set up (e.g., housing, heaters, thermostats) for the animal?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Tortoises	1430	75%
Total who own Tortoises	480	25%
Of those who keep Tortoises		
£0-9	10	2%
£10-49	9	2%
£50-99	29	6%
£100-149	27	6%
£150-199	43	9%
£200-249	43	9%
£250-299	13	3%
£300-499	20	4%
£500+	30	6%
Mostly reused old equipment	46	10%
I did not obtain Tortoises in the last 12 months	184	38%
Not stated	26	5%

Table 5.9: Thinking about your tortoise(s), how old is the oldest individual?

Total	1910	
Total not owning Tortoises	1430	75%
Total who own Tortoises	480	25%
Of those who keep tortoises:		
Response	Count	%
1	29	6%
2	33	7%
3	43	9%
4	29	6%
5	30	6%
6	28	6%
7	23	5%
8	22	5%
9	11	2%
10	22	5%
11-15	66	14%
16-20	34	7%
21-30	33	7%
31-40	15	3%
41-50	7	1%
51-60	5	1%
61-70	13	3%
71-80	6	1%
81-90	1	0%
90+	14	3%
Don't know	14	3%
Not stated	2	0%

6. Frogs and Toads



Of the respondents in 2022 a lower proportion reported keeping frogs and toads compared to the 2021 survey (22% compared to 29%). It is unclear whether this is a real decline in frog and toad keeping or due to the nature of a self-selecting survey that reached a slightly different group of respondents.

The top 5 most common species kept were Horned frog, Whites tree frog, African bullfrog, Green and black dart frog, and Oriental fire belly toad. This is similar to the top 5 species from 2021 although in 2021 the survey asked for poison dart frogs in general rather than species specific.

Ten per cent reported keeping a species other than those listed in the table below, which is the same as the 2021 survey. The full list of species kept is provided in the appendix.

In total, there were over 4717 individual frogs and toads kept by respondents, with an average of 11.3 frogs and toads per frog and toad keeping respondent. This is slightly higher than the 2021 survey which had an average of 9.5 frogs and toads per frog and toad keeping respondent.

The majority of frog and toad keepers (76%) reported that their frogs and toads were all captive bred, with a further 7% reporting that the majority of their frogs and toads were captive bred. A total of 9% of respondents reported that their frogs and toads were either a mixture of captive bred and wild caught, mostly wild caught or all wild caught.

The majority of respondents mostly kept their frogs and toads in glass terrariums (80%) and a further 6% reported keeping their frogs and toads in plastic vivaria. This compares to the 2021 survey where 70% of respondents reported using glass terrariums and 10% using plastic vivaria.

There was a wide spread of prices paid for frogs and toads, with the majority between £10 and £99 (41%), and 1% reported paying £500 or over for their frog or toad. Twenty per cent of respondents did not obtain a new frog or toad in the previous 12 months and 4% were given or rehomed their frog or toad for no charge. This wide spread of prices was also observed in the 2021 survey.

The cost of housing/set up for a new frog or toad also varied. Twenty-one per cent of respondents reported not obtaining a frog or toad in the previous 12 months (slightly inconsistent with the previous question) and 20% mostly re-used existing equipment. There were 3% who reported spending £500 or over on their new set up. This is slightly different to the 2021 survey where 21% reported re-using old equipment and 8% reported spending £500 or over on a new set up.

Table 6.1: Do you keep one or more frog or toad?

2022			2021		
	Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Total N	1910	100%	Total N	2124	100%
Do you keep one or more frog or toad?			Do you keep one or more frog or toad?		
Yes	417	22%	Yes	618	29%
No	1493	78%	No	1506	71%

Table 6.2: Which types of frogs and toads do you own?

Total N	1910	100%
Do you keep one or more frog or toad?		
Yes	417	22%
No	1493	78%
Which species		
Whites tree frog (<i>Ranoidea caerulea</i>)	114	6%
European treefrog (<i>Hyla arborea</i>)	31	2%
Horned frog (<i>Ceratophrys ornata</i>)	137	7%
African bullfrog (<i>Pyxicephalus adspersus</i>)	60	3%
Budgets frog (<i>Lepidobatrachus laevis</i>)	10	1%
Green and black dart frog (<i>Dendrobates auratus</i>)	44	2%
Phantasmal dart frog (<i>Epipedobates tricolor</i>)	30	2%
Bumblebee dart frog (<i>Dendrobates leucomelas</i>)	37	2%
Golden mantella (<i>Mantella aurantiaca</i>)	13	1%
Oriental fire belly toad (<i>Bombina orientalis</i>)	41	2%
Not stated	6	0%
Other	187	10%

Table 6.3: In total, how many individual frogs and toads do you have?

Total (N)	1910		
Total not owning Frogs and Toads	1493	78%	
Total who own Frogs and Toads	417	22%	
Total Frogs and Toads owned by respondents	4717		
Average Frogs and Toads per household	11.3		
Median (25th and 75th percentile)	3.0	(1.0, 8.0)	
How many frogs and toads are owned by those who keep them:			
	Number	Count	%
	1	111	27%
	2	50	12%
	3	54	13%
	4	32	8%
	5	30	7%
	6	18	4%
	7	14	3%
	8	9	2%
	9	3	1%
	10	16	4%
	11	3	1%
	12	7	2%
	13	6	1%
	14	6	1%
	15	4	1%
	16-20	5	1%
	21-30	18	4%
	31-40	7	2%
	41-50	2	0%
	51-100	16	4%
	101+	6	1%

Table 6.4: Thinking about the frogs and toads that you own, which of the following statements best describe them?

Total (N)	1910	
Total not owning Frogs and Toads	1493	78%
Total who own Frogs and Toads	417	22%
Of those who own Frogs and Toads:		
Response	Count	%
My frogs and toads are all captive bred	316	76%
My frogs and toads are mostly captive bred, with a few wild caught	28	7%
My frogs and toads are a mixture of captive bred and wild caught in about equal numbers	20	5%
My frogs and toads are mostly wild caught, with a few captive bred	8	2%
None of the frogs and toads I own are captive bred	9	2%
I don't know if the frogs and toads I own are wild caught or captive bred	34	8%
Not stated	2	0%

Table 6.5: What kind of housing do you mostly keep your frogs and toads in?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Frogs and Toads	1493	78%
Total who own Frogs and Toads	417	22%
Of those who keep Frogs and Toads		
Wooden vivarium	6	1%
Plastic vivarium	25	6%
Glass terrarium	332	80%
Tortoise table	4	1%
Outdoors	9	2%
Plastic tank/pond	7	2%
Plastic tub/box tank	20	5%
Aquarium	0	0%
Room/walk in enclosure	3	1%
Greenhouse	7	2%
Mesh enclosure	0	0%
Mixed	2	0%
Other	2	0%
Not stated	0	0%

*Plastic tub/box tank includes racks and racking systems

Table 6.6: Thinking about your most recent frog or toad; if you obtained it in the last 12 months, how much did you spend on the animal itself?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Frogs and Toads	1493	78%
Total who own Frogs and Toads	417	22%
Of those who keep Frogs and Toads		
£0-9	24	6%
£10-49	85	20%
£50-99	88	21%
£100-149	31	7%
£150-199	32	8%
£200-249	15	4%
£250-299	8	2%
£300-499	4	1%
£500+	5	1%
Given or rehomed for no charge	18	4%
I did not obtain Frogs and Toads in the last 12 months	84	20%
Not stated	23	6%

Table 6.7: Thinking about your most recent frog or toad; if you obtained it in the last 12 months, how much did you spend on the set up (e.g., housing, heaters, thermostats) for the animal?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Frogs and Toads	1493	78%
Total who own Frogs and Toads	417	22%
Of those who keep Frogs and Toads		
£0-9	5	1%
£10-49	17	4%
£50-99	34	8%
£100-149	43	10%
£150-199	46	11%
£200-249	25	6%
£250-299	24	6%
£300-499	24	6%
£500+	14	3%
Mostly reused old equipment	82	20%
I did not obtain Frogs and Toads in the last 12 months	86	21%
Not stated	17	4%

Table 6.8: Thinking about your frogs and toads, how old is the oldest individual?

Total	1910	
Total not owning Frogs and Toads	1493	78%
Total who own Frogs and Toads	417	22%
Of those who keep Frogs and Toads:		
Response	Count	%
1	88	21%
2	67	16%
3	59	14%
4	37	9%
5	38	9%
6	20	5%
7	10	2%
8	15	4%
9	9	2%
10	11	3%
11-15	20	5%
16-20	10	2%
21-30	5	1%
31-40	0	0%
Don't know	25	6%
Not stated	3	1%

7. Newts and Salamanders



Of the respondents in 2022 a lower proportion reported keeping newts and salamanders compared to the 2021 survey (7% compared to 15%). It is unclear whether this is a real decline in newt and salamander keeping or due to the nature of a self-selecting survey that reached a slightly different group of respondents.

The top 5 most common species kept were Axolotl, Fire salamander, Marbled newt, Tiger salamander, and Alpine newt. This is similar to the top 5 species from 2021 although Fire belly newts were kept by a higher proportion than alpine newts.

One per cent reported keeping a species other than those listed in the table below, which is the same as the 2021 survey. The full list of species kept is provided in the appendix.

In total, there were 2076 individual newts and salamanders kept by respondents, with an average of 14.8 newts and salamanders per newt and salamander keeping respondent. This is slightly higher than the 2021 survey which had an average of 9.2 newts and salamanders per newt and salamander keeping respondent.

The majority of newt and salamander keepers (74%) reported that their newts and salamanders were all captive bred, with a further 5% reporting that the majority of their newts and salamanders were captive bred. A total of 15% of respondents reported that their newts and salamanders were either a mixture of captive bred and wild caught, mostly wild caught or all wild caught.

The majority of respondents mostly kept their newts and salamanders in glass terrariums (64%) and a further 13% reported keeping their newts and salamanders outdoors. This compares to the 2021 survey where 46% of respondents reported using glass terrariums and 12% outdoors.

There was a wide spread of prices paid for newts and salamanders, with the majority between £10 and £99 (33%), and 1% reported paying £500 or over for their newt or salamander. Twenty-four per cent of respondents did not obtain a new newt or salamander in the previous 12 months and 6% were given or rehomed their newt or salamander for no charge. This wide spread of prices was also observed in the 2021 survey.

The cost of housing/set up for a new newt or salamander also varied. Twenty-four per cent of respondents reported not obtaining a newt or salamander in the previous 12 months (slightly inconsistent with the previous question) and 16% mostly re-used existing equipment. There were 1% who reported spending £500 or over on their new set up. This is slightly different to the 2021 survey where 23% reported re-using old equipment and 2% reported spending £500 or over on a new set up.

Table 7.1: Do you keep one or more newt or salamander?

2022			2021		
	Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Total N	1910	100%	Total N	2124	100%
Do you keep one or more newt or salamander?			Do you keep one or more newt or salamander?		
Yes	140	7%	Yes	198	9%
No	1770	93%	No	1926	91%

Table 7.2: Which types of newts and salamanders do you own?

Total N	1910	100%
Do you keep one or more newt or salamander?		
Yes	140	7%
No	1770	93%
Which species		
Axolotl (<i>Ambystoma mexicanum</i>)	58	3%
Fire salamander (<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>)	51	3%
Marbled newt (<i>Triturus marmoratus</i>)	22	1%
Tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>)	20	1%
Alpine newt (<i>Ichthyosaura alpestris</i>)	17	1%
Spanish ribbed newt (<i>Pleurodeles waltl</i>)	15	1%
Japanese fire belly newt (<i>Cynops pyrrhogaster</i>)	11	1%
Spotted salamander (<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>)	6	0%
Mandarin newt (<i>Tylototriton shanjing</i>)	2	0%
Not stated	2	0%
Other	23	1%

Table 7.3: In total, how many individual newts and salamanders do you have?

Total (N)	1910		
Total not owning Newts and Salamanders	1770	93%	
Total who own Newts and Salamanders	140	7%	
Total Newts and Salamanders owned by respondents	2076		
Average Newts and Salamanders per household	14.8		
Median (25th and 75th percentile)	3.0	(1.0, 6.0)	
How many newts and salamanders are owned by those who keep them:			
	Number	Count	%
	1	41	29%
	2	23	16%
	3	12	9%
	4	9	6%
	5	10	7%
	6	11	8%
	7	2	1%
	8	3	2%
	9	1	1%
	10	2	1%
	11	1	1%
	12	1	1%
	14	1	1%
	15	0	0%
	16-20	7	5%
	21-30	6	4%
	31-40	4	3%
	41-50	0	0%
	51-100	1	1%
	101+	6	4%

Table 7.4: Thinking about the newts and salamanders that you own, which of the following statements best describe them?

Total (N)	1910	
Total not owning Newts and Salamanders	1770	93%
Total who own Newts and Salamanders	140	7%
Of those who own Newts and Salamanders:		
Response	Count	%
My newts and salamanders are all captive bred	103	74%
My newts and salamanders are mostly captive bred, with a few wild caught	7	5%
My newts and salamanders are a mixture of captive bred and wild caught in about equal numbers	9	6%
My newts and salamanders are mostly wild caught, with a few captive bred	7	5%
None of the newts and salamanders I own are captive bred	6	4%
I don't know if the newts and salamanders I own are wild caught or captive bred	8	6%
Not stated	0	0%

Table 7.5: What kind of housing do you mostly keep your newts and salamanders in?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Newts and Salamanders	1770	93%
Total who own Newts and Salamanders	140	7%
Of those who keep Newts and Salamanders		
Wooden vivarium	2	1%
Plastic vivarium	7	5%
Glass terrarium	89	64%
Tortoise table	3	2%
Outdoors	18	13%
Plastic tank/pond	3	2%
Plastic tub/box tank	9	6%
Aquarium	0	0%
Room/walk in enclosure	2	1%
Greenhouse	4	3%
Mesh enclosure	1	1%
Mixed	1	1%
Other	1	1%
Not stated	0	0%

*Plastic tub/box tank includes racks and racking systems

Table 7.6: Thinking about your most recent newt or salamander; if you obtained it in the last 12 months, how much did you spend on the animal itself?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Newts and Salamanders	1770	93%
Total who own Newts and Salamanders	140	7%
Of those who keep Newts and Salamanders		
£0-9	7	5%
£10-49	26	19%
£50-99	20	14%
£100-149	11	8%
£150-199	10	7%
£200-249	5	4%
£250-299	3	2%
£300-499	1	1%
£500+	1	1%
Given or rehomed for no charge	9	6%
I did not obtain Newts and Salamanders in the last 12 months	33	24%
Not stated	14	10%

Table 7.7: Thinking about your most recent newt or salamander; if you obtained it in the last 12 months, how much did you spend on the set up (e.g., housing, heaters, thermostats) for the animal?

Total	1910	
Source	Number	Percentage
Total not owning Newts and Salamanders	1770	93%
Total who own Newts and Salamanders	140	7%
Of those who keep Newts and Salamanders		
£0-9	2	1%
£10-49	0	0%
£50-99	13	9%
£100-149	20	14%
£150-199	22	16%
£200-249	6	4%
£250-299	7	5%
£300-499	3	2%
£500+	2	1%
Mostly reused old equipment	23	16%
I did not obtain Newts and Salamanders in the last 12 months	34	24%
Not stated	8	6%

Table 7.8: Thinking about your newts and salamanders, how old is the oldest individual?

Total	1910	
Total not owning Newts and Salamanders	1770	93%
Total who own Newts and Salamanders	140	7%
Of those who keep Newts and Salamanders:		
Response	Count	%
1	19	14%
2	17	12%
3	17	12%
4	8	6%
5	15	11%
6	10	7%
7	4	3%
8	4	3%
9	3	2%
10	9	6%
11-15	13	9%
16-20	6	4%
21-30	4	3%
31-40	0	0%
41-50	0	0%
51-60	1	1%
Don't know	7	5%
Not stated	3	2%

8. Questions about keepers



As per the 2021 FBH survey we asked general questions of respondents about their animals. In general the results from the 2022 survey were similar to the 2021 survey.

8.1 Acquiring a new reptile or amphibian

Respondents reported that when getting a new reptile or amphibian, the most likely places were specialist exotic pet shops (62%), Private breeders known to the respondent (37%) and rehoming organisations (28%).

Before purchasing a new animal respondents reported doing detailed research (88%), or basic research (8%), and a further 11% reported only getting animals that they have experience with. The sources mostly likely to be used for research were internet research (78%), other experienced keepers (71%), and reference books (45%).

Table 8.1: When getting a new reptile or amphibian, where are you most likely to get them from?

Source	Number	Percentage
Total (tick all that apply)	1910	
Specialist exotic pet shop (for exotic pets only)	1179	62%
Private breeder known to you	702	37%
Rehoming organisation (e.g. shelter, charity)	529	28%
Show/Expo in the UK	441	23%
Online - classified advert (e.g. Gumtree, Preloved)	308	16%
Private breeder selling animals somewhere other than online or at show/expo	231	12%
Pet shop (general)	190	10%
Online - social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)	177	9%
Online - specialist forum	262	14%
Bred animal yourself	218	11%
Friend or family member	154	8%
Show/Expo in Europe	55	3%
Show/Expo in the rest of the world	9	0%
Cannot remember/Don't know	0	0%
Not stated	1	0%

Table 8.2: Before getting a new animal that you have not kept before, how much research do you do?

Total (Tick all that apply)	1910	100%
Detailed research	1673	88%
Basic research	158	8%
I only obtain animals I have experience with	216	11%
I obtain animals that I like when I see them and do the research after purchase	48	3%

Table 8.3: When buying an animal what sources of information are most likely to use for research.

Total (Please select up to 3 options)	1910	100%
Internet research	1489	78%
Other experienced keepers	1357	71%
Reference books	851	45%
Social media	364	19%
Verbal information from pet shops	392	21%
Scientific papers	455	24%
Friends and acquaintances	243	13%
Care leaflets from pet shops	164	9%

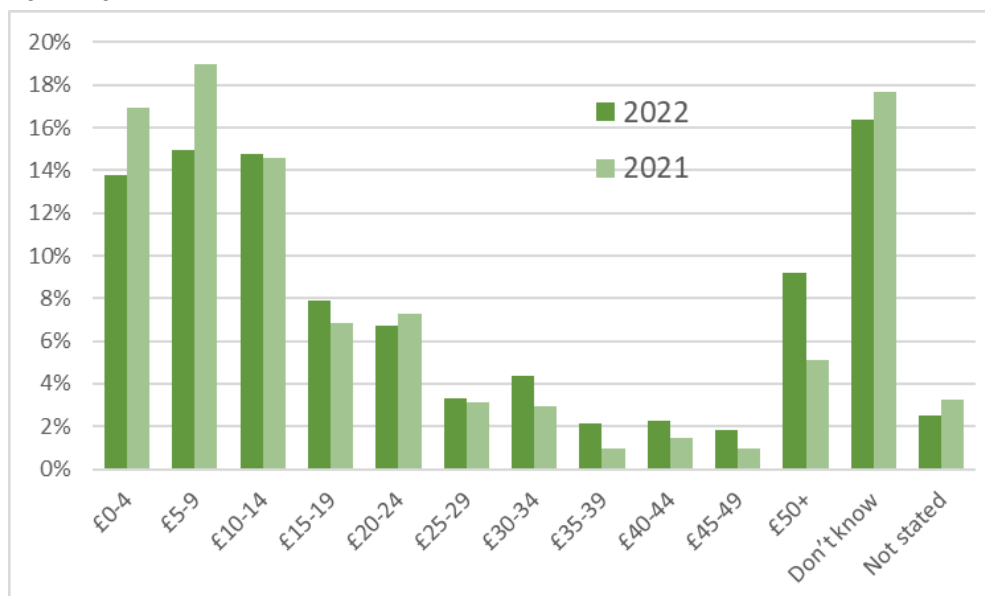
8.2 Cost of keeping reptiles and amphibians

The general weekly costs for caring for reptiles and amphibians including food, electricity and consumables is relatively low. The most common costs for feeding was £0-4 (20%) and £5-9 (19%) per week. The most common costs for consumables (such as substrates and lights) was £0-4 per week (27%).

The cost of electricity has been of great interest in recent years. The end of 2022 and early 2023 saw a large increase in the cost of electricity in the UK, and as such there were additional questions in this year's survey.

Respondents were unsure of the cost of electricity for their animal(s) with the most common response being that they didn't know (16%). However respondents also reported £0-4 (14%), £5-9 (15%) and £10-14 (15%) per week in similar proportions. These were also the most common responses in the 2021 survey, with £5-9 being the most common response (20%). In 2022 9% reported spending £50+ per week on electricity compared to 5% in the 2021 survey.

Figure 8.1: Percentage of respondents with reported weekly energy costs for their animals, 2021-2022.



As an additional question the 2022 survey asked about the impacts of the rise in price for electricity. At the time 35% of respondents reported that the rise in price of electricity had had no impact on their animals, and a further 33% reported that any additional costs would be absorbed without impacts on their animals. Sixteen per cent of respondents expected to see an impact within the next six months, and due to energy prices 30% of respondents plan to not obtain any new animals. Seven percent of respondents plan to reduce the number of animals they keep, and 8% plan to make changes to their set ups due to the cost of energy.

Table 8.4: On average how much do you spend each week on food for your animal(s)?

Total	1910	100%
£0-4	379	20%
£5-9	367	19%
£10-14	274	14%
£15-19	160	8%
£20-24	151	8%
£25-29	102	5%
£30-34	91	5%
£35-39	51	3%
£40-44	43	2%
£45-49	33	2%
£50+	125	7%
Don't know	92	5%
Not stated	42	2%

Table 8.5: On average how much do you spend each week on electricity for your animal(s)?

Total	1910	100%
£0-4	263	14%
£5-9	285	15%
£10-14	282	15%
£15-19	151	8%
£20-24	128	7%
£25-29	63	3%
£30-34	83	4%
£35-39	41	2%
£40-44	43	2%
£45-49	35	2%
£50+	175	9%
Don't know	313	16%
Not stated	48	3%

Table 8.6: On average how much do you spend each week on consumables for your animal(s)?

Total	1910	100%
£0-4	517	27%
£5-9	312	16%
£10-14	212	11%
£15-19	107	6%
£20-24	104	5%
£25-29	57	3%
£30-34	40	2%
£35-39	26	1%
£40-44	20	1%
£45-49	11	1%
£50+	60	3%
Don't know	308	16%
Not stated	136	7%

Table 8.7: Thinking about the recent increases in energy cost, has this impacted your decisions about keeping reptiles and/or amphibians?

Total (tick all that apply)	1910	100%
There has been no impact so far	678	35%
I anticipate an impact in the next six months	311	16%
I anticipate an impact after the next six months	118	6%
I plan to reduce the number of animals that I keep	127	7%
I plan to not obtain any new animals	570	30%
I plan to continue to obtain new animals	222	12%
I have made changes to the set up of my animals due to energy costs	253	13%
I plan to make changes to the set up of my animals due to energy costs	162	8%
I do not plan to make changes to the set up of my animals	382	20%
I plan to continue as I am and absorb the additional costs	623	33%
I have changed, or will change, my breeding plans	133	7%
Not stated	3	0%
Other	42	2%
Other responses grouped into;		
I plan to, or have, made my set ups or personal consumptions more efficient	15	0.8%
I plan to monitor the situation	8	0.4%
I keep, or will keep more, temperate species	6	0.3%
I have fitted, or will fit, solar panels	4	0.2%

8.3 Attitudes to keeping reptiles and amphibians

Respondents have been keeping reptiles across a broad spread of years, with a relatively even distribution of those keeping reptiles for 1-4 years, 5-9 years, 10-19 years and 20+ years (22-24% in each category). A further 5% of respondents reported keeping reptiles and amphibians for less than 1 year. This suggests that reptile keeping has been embedded in the UK for many decades and continues to attract new interest and keepers.

In general respondents consider themselves to be pet keepers (31%) or hobbyists with detailed knowledge of the biology of the animals they keep (34%), with a further 21% considering themselves as hobbyists. In terms of breeding 30% of respondents reported that they have not bred their animals and have no plans to breed them, compared to 12% who reported that they breed them regularly.

The majority of respondents (98%) were aware of the FBH minimum enclosure size guidance. Of which 60% reported having already read them. There was a mix of responses in regard to what people thought of the guidelines in terms of the animals they kept, with the largest group

(42%) reporting that the guidelines were about right, with a further 6% saying that the guidelines were a bit too big and 9% saying they were a bit too small. Only 5% of respondents thought the guidelines were far too big (3%) or far too small (2%).

Table 8.8: How long have you been keeping reptiles and/or amphibians?

Total	1910	100%
Less than 1 year	101	5%
1-4 years	452	24%
5-9 years	429	22%
10-19 years	466	24%
20+ years	443	23%
Not stated	19	1%

Table 8.9: Thinking about your own attitude to the animals that you keep, which statement do you think best describes you?

Total	1910	100%
I am a pet owner	596	31%
I am a hobbyist who has a detailed knowledge of the biology of the animals I keep	650	34%
I am a hobbyist	395	21%
I am a herpetologist who has a detailed knowledge of the biology of the animals I keep	147	8%
I am a reptile/amphibian professional or researcher	69	4%
I am a collector	48	3%
Not stated	5	0%

Table 8.10: Do you breed your reptiles and amphibians?

Total	1910	100%
No, I never breed them	162	8%
No, and I have no plans to breed them	569	30%
No, but I have bred them before	160	8%
No, but I might in the future	338	18%
Yes, but only when they breed by accident	68	4%
Yes, but only occasionally or only a small number of my animals	373	20%
Yes, I breed them regularly	230	12%
Not stated	10	1%

Table 8.11: Are you aware of the enclosure size guidelines that the FBH have produced?

Total	1910	100%
Yes, and I have looked at them	1141	60%
Yes, but I have not looked at them	263	14%
No, but I will look at them	458	24%
No, and I will not look at them	43	2%
Not stated	5	0%

Table 8.12: If you have looked at the enclosure size guidelines, what did you think of the guidelines in relation to animals that you keep?

Total	1910	100%
The guidelines were far too big	64	3%
The guidelines were a bit too big	122	6%
The guidelines were about right	803	42%
The guidelines were a bit too small	173	9%
The guidelines were far too small	31	2%
I have not looked at the guidelines	538	28%
The guidelines didn't relate to animals that I keep	47	2%
Not stated	60	3%
Other; of which	72	4%
My thoughts on the guidelines varied depending on species	20	1%

9. Demographic information



The demographic information for reptile and amphibian keepers that responded to the 2022 FBH survey showed that:

- 52% were male and 46% were female.
- The most common age group was 25-34 years (32%) and 35-44 years (28%), but covered ranges from 16 to 75+.
- There was a fairly even split in terms of occupation, with respondents in each of the categories.
- Respondents were from each of the countries in the UK with 85% in England, 7% in Wales, 7% in Scotland and 2% in Northern Ireland. This is fairly similar to the population proportions across the UK (by population England 84%, Wales 5%, Scotland 8% and Northern Ireland 2%).

Table 9.1: Gender

Total	1910	100%
Male	984	52%
Female	870	46%
Other	31	2%
Prefer not to say	16	1%
Not stated	9	0%

Table 9.2: Age

Total	1910	100%
Under 16	16	1%
16-24	290	15%
25-34	612	32%
35-44	531	28%
45-54	266	14%
55-64	145	8%
65-74	39	2%
75+	8	0%
Not stated	3	0%

Table 9.3: Which of the following best describes your current or most recent occupation?

Total	1910	100%
Higher managerial, administrative or professional	309	16%
Intermediate managerial, administrative or professional	377	20%
Supervisory or clerical and junior managerial, administrative or professional	294	15%
Skilled manual workers	404	21%
Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers	177	9%
Full time student	157	8%
State pensioners, casual and lowest grade workers, unemployed with state benefits only.	174	9%
Not stated	18	1%

Table 9.4: Which country do you live in?

Total	1910	100%
England	1622	85%
Wales	126	7%
Scotland	125	7%
Northern Ireland	37	2%

10. New analysis

In the 2022 FBH survey we looked at the different types of animals that are kept by respondents. The table below shows how many groups of animals were kept by respondents - the groups that we asked in the survey were Snakes, Lizards, Turtles and terrapins, Tortoises, Frogs and toads, and Newts and salamanders. Forty-two percent of respondents kept only animals from one of these groups. Of those keeping one taxa group, the most common group was snakes. This is not surprising because snakes were the most commonly kept group overall. Of those that kept two taxa groups by far the most common combination was snakes and lizards (66%), which again is not too surprising because these were the two most commonly kept groups. There were 2% of respondents who kept animals from each of the 6 groups.

Total animals kept was also tabulated for the first time in the 2022 survey. When looking at each of the groups, the most common number of any animal kept was 1, e.g. 20% of snake-keeping respondents kept one snake. The majority of respondents kept 1-10 animals (62%), which is considerably higher than the next largest group which was 11-20 animals (15%). While there are respondents who reported keeping very large numbers of animals these do not seem to reflect the average reptile and amphibian keeper.

Table 10.1: How many of the groups of animals that we have asked about do respondents keep?

Total	1910	100%
1	807	42%
2	578	30%
3	315	16%
4	131	7%
5	42	2%
6	37	2%

Table 10.2: Of those keeping 1 taxa group

One taxa group	807	100%
Snakes	445	55%
Lizards	219	27%
Turtles and Terrapins	37	5%
Tortoises	70	9%
Frogs and Toads	31	4%
Newts and Salamanders	5	1%

Table 10.3: Of those keeping 2 taxa groups

Two groups	578	100%
Snakes + Lizards	379	66%
Snakes + Turtles and Terrapins	16	3%
Snakes + Tortoises	48	8%
Snakes + Frogs and Toads	19	3%
Snakes + Newts and Salamanders	3	1%
Lizards + Turtles and Terrapins	10	2%
Lizards + Tortoises	44	8%
Lizards + Frogs and Toads	34	6%
Lizards + Newts and Salamanders	3	1%
Turtles and Terrapins + Tortoises	10	2%
Turtles and Terrapins + Frogs and Toads	3	1%
Turtles and Terrapins + Newts and Salamanders	1	0%
Tortoises + Frogs and Toads	1	0%
Tortoises + Newts and Salamanders	1	0%
Frogs and Toads + Newts and Salamanders	6	1%

Table 10.4: Total animals kept across all groups

Total	1910	100%
1-10	1178	62%
11-20	290	15%
21-30	123	6%
31-40	94	5%
41-50	48	3%
51-100	110	6%
101-150	27	1%
151-200	17	1%
201-300	8	0%
301-400	10	1%
401-500	1	0%
501 and over	4	0%

Total number of reptiles and amphibians in the UK:

From the 2021 FBH survey we estimated that there were 8.8m reptiles and amphibians in total in the UK. This was estimated using information from our survey, the UK Pet Population survey and scaled up by the number of households in the UK (full estimate in Annex B). This analysis has not yet been replicated using the 2022 FBH survey data, because the FBH are looking to work with an independent statistician to refine this methodology so that we can produce a more robust estimate and understand the levels of uncertainty around the figure.

Annex A - species list - TBC

Annex B - FBH Estimate of total reptiles and amphibians kept in the UK

Total estimate using 2021 FBH survey data: **8.8m reptiles and amphibians kept privately in the UK.**

This estimate is based on three sources:

1. UK Pet Food Manufacturers Association (PFMA) data 2022¹
2. PFMA ad FBH Reptile and Amphibian keeper's survey 2021²
3. Total number of UK households from the Office for National Statistics³

The PFMA data is a nationally representative survey that estimates the proportion of UK households that keep animals as pets - this covers many common pets including cats and dogs.

PFMA table for reptiles and amphibians, and proportion of households keeping animals, 2022.

Animal group	% households that keep
Tortoises and Turtles	1.4%
Snakes	1.0%
Lizards	1.0%
Frogs and Toads	0.5%
Newts/Salamanders	0.3%

The 2021 survey of reptile and amphibian keepers was run jointly by the PFMA and the FBH to get more in depth information specifically from reptile and amphibian keepers. From this the average number of animals per household that keeps each groups was reported.

¹ [PFMA UK Pet population, 2022](#)

² [FBH and PFMA reptile and amphibian keeper's survey 2021](#)

³ [ONS 2021 Household statistics](#)

PFMA and FBH survey responses for the average number of animals being kept - for respondents who kept each animal group.

Animal group	Average per household
Snakes	10.549
Lizards	7.306
Turtles/Terrapins	5.762
Tortoises	3.612
Frogs/Toads	9.495
Newts/Salamanders	9.203
Other	9.917

The FBH estimate is calculated by combining PFMA estimates of households that keep reptiles and amphibians and the PFMA/FBH estimates of the average number of reptiles and amphibians for those that keep these animals. This was then scaled up to the number of households in the UK as per The Office for National Statistics 2021 figures - which show that there were 28,081,000 UK households in 2021.

Table estimating total number of reptiles and amphibians kept in the UK:

UK households 2021:	28,081,000		
	FBH survey; Average animals per keeping household. 2021	PFMA survey; Proportion of Households keeping animals. 2022	Total animals scaled up to UK households (millions)
Snakes	10.5	1.0%	3.0
Lizards	7.3	1.0%	2.1
Turtles/Terrapins	5.8	0.4%	0.6
Tortoises	3.6	1.0%	1.0
Frogs/Toads	9.5	0.5%	1.3
Newts/Salamanders	9.2	0.3%	0.8
Total			8.8

Notes: Other reptile and amphibian species were not included in this estimate. The proportion of households keeping tortoises and turtles was split proportionally based on the responses in the FBH survey.

The FBH continues to collect up to date information on the number of reptiles and amphibians kept in the UK and will look to update and refine this estimate over time.