



Organised and Published by The Federation of British Herpetologists

How Attitudes Have Changed

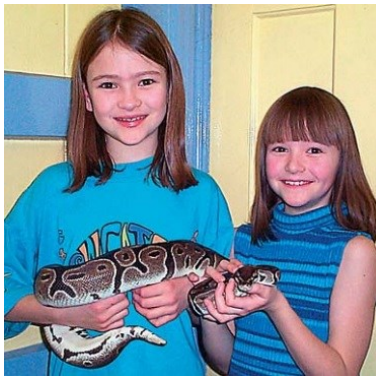


Start of the 1900's

At the start of the 1900's we were still employing snake catchers to clear the countryside of snakes. The most famous was Brusher Mills who worked in the new forest. In 1899 a paper reported his life's tally so far as 29,025 Grass snakes, 3,848 Adders and 198 Smooth snakes, total 33,071.

Nowadays these species are Protected under Law by The Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981.

2015



Did you know that in the UK today there are as many reptile and amphibians kept as pets as there are dogs? **1.5 million households** now keep reptiles or amphibians as pets, which equates to more than **8 million animals**. The popularity of reptiles and amphibians as pets has risen dramatically over the last 20 years and continues to be the fastest growing sector of the pet industry – why is this?

Well, reptiles and amphibians do make really good pets for a number of reasons:

They are ideal for families as they can be left unattended for short periods without compromising welfare.

They are hypo-allergenic (no hair or feathers) and are suitable for households with allergies or asthma.

They don't need much space (great for people living in flats), don't need to be taken for walks and don't need access to a garden.

They are environmentally friendly, don't cause damage to habitat or have a negative impact on native wildlife.



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