



Circular 2015/02

PIT Tagging Reptiles

Dear Exhibitor,

The Department recommends that all exhibitors identify each of their reptiles individually with a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag under the skin, wherever feasible.

This will improve the traceability of any reptiles stolen from your collection and maximise the likelihood of their return to you, their lawful owner. It will also provide benefits for management of the reptiles within your collection.

Thefts of reptiles, both native and exotic, from animal exhibits within New South Wales, have become more common and represent a significant welfare risk to the animals. It is also an unpleasant and potentially costly experience for exhibitors.

Stolen reptiles are sometimes seized as part of government enforcement activities (frequently by agencies other than our Department), or anonymously handed in, and there is a good chance that these animals can be returned to their owner if they are identifiable.

The identification of exotic reptiles is particularly important as animals that have been seized or handed in may have to be euthanased if the owner cannot be traced. This is due to the significant disease risks associated with exotic reptiles of unknown origin, due to the risk that they have been illegally imported and distributed.

When implanting PIT tags in any reptile it is recommended that you consult with your veterinarian to ensure that it is done appropriately.

If you have any queries or suggestions on managing this issue I can be contacted at (02) 6391 3474 or stephen.jackson@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Dr Stephen Jackson
Research Scientist
2 September 2015