

Handling Guidelines – Parties & Events

All party attendees, staff and public must adhere to handling guidelines when taking part in an exhibition or party by Blackpool Reptiles.

- No tarantulas /to be handled by / touched by the public. Tarantulas / to be displayed only in secure enclosures with no contact with the public.
- Snakes are not to be held around members of the public's necks.
- No children under the age of 5 to handle the animals.
- No children under the age of 3 to touch the animals.
- Children aged 3 to 5 must only touch the animals whilst the animals are handled by an experienced person aged 16 or over.

Please note: Reptiles can carry zoonotic diseases which means that they can be transferred and infect humans. **Use hand gel provided before and after handling** or touching any of the animals. Please do not be offended if we ask you to wash your hands, this is to keep both you and the animals safe from harm. Please do not help yourself to any of the animals, we will assist you with handling/touching the animals in the correct way.

Species specific handling:

Snakes- handle as instructed by the party host. Do not pick up from the front end and ensure that the snake is handed to you by the host who will show you how to correctly handle/touch the snake. Do not put hands near the snakes face.

Tortoises- hold flat on the palm or allow to walk on floor, do not put hands near the tortoises mouth or face as they will bite out of curiosity. Only handle an animal with the host or once the host has handed this to you.

Lizards- hold flat on the palm, avoid touching the lizards mouth as they can bite and avoid the lizards tail as they are able to drop their tails when stressed. Only handle an animal with the host or once the host has handed this to you.

Amphibians- we do not take poisonous frogs/toads to events. Any of the amphibians we do take must be handled on an open palm whilst wearing gloves which are provided, to prevent damage to the amphibians skin.