Reptile Care

Magazine Research Record



Volume 4, Issue 1, 2007. Representative issue from the Reptile Care UK Ltd publishing era.

Publication Identification

Field	Information
Country	United Kingdom
Publisher	Mulberry Publications Ltd. (2004–2006); Reptile Care UK Ltd. (Volume 4, Issue 1, 2007)
Publisher address	Mulberry Publications Ltd.: Suite 209, 2nd Floor, Wellington House, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3DA. Reptile Care UK Ltd.: 126–128 Gloucester Road North, Filton, Bristol BS34 7BQ, United Kingdom.
Magazine title	Reptile Care
Publication status	Out of print, according to a later herpetological bibliography. Exact final issue and cessation date: Pending research update
Publication run	Introduced in late 2003; represented issues extend through Volume 4, Issue 1 (2007). Exact final issue: Pending research update.
Editor	Chris Brock (2004); Mark O'Sullivan (2006); Angela Nelson (Volume 4, Issue 1, 2007).
Printer	Pending research update
ISSN	Pending research update
Language	English
Publication type	Reptile husbandry and herpetoculture magazine
Publication frequency	Bimonthly, approximately six issues per year. Contemporary advertising described it as bimonthly, and the represented issue sequence supports that schedule.

Field	Information
Collection coverage	13 represented physical issues, Issue 3 (January 2004) through Volume 4, Issue 1 (2007).
Earliest issue represented	Issue 3, January 2004
Latest issue represented	Volume 4, Issue 1, 2007
Launch period	Late 2003. A contemporary British Herpetological Society advertisement described it as a new magazine and promoted six issues for the price of five.
Website used during the represented run	www.reptilecaremagazine.com
2004 to 2005 publisher	Mulberry Publications Ltd., Suite 209, 2nd Floor, Wellington House, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3DA
2004 to 2005 publisher and editor	Publisher: Phillip Northcott. Editor: Chris Brock (documented earlier); Mark O'Sullivan is documented in 2006.
2006 publisher	Reptile Care UK Ltd., 126–128 Gloucester Road North, Filton, Bristol BS34 7BQ (documented in Volume 4, Issue 1, 2007)
2006 publisher and editor	Volume 4, Issue 1 (2007): Publisher Pete Blake; Editor Angela Nelson.
Continuity assessment	One continuing magazine with a publisher and editorial change, not two separately launched magazines. The exact business mechanism of the transfer remains unverified.

Preservation Significance

Reptile Care is significant within the collection because it preserves a short lived British herpetoculture magazine from the early 2000s, a period when specialist print magazines still played an important role in distributing husbandry information to reptile keepers. The represented issues document enclosure design, feeding, breeding, lighting, behavioral enrichment, species profiles, veterinary and welfare topics, captive breeding and field oriented natural history.

The collection also preserves a publication transition that is not well documented online. Issues from 2004 and 2005 identify Mulberry Publications Ltd. as publisher, while Volume 4, Issue 1 in 2007 identifies Reptile Care UK Ltd. in Bristol. Despite the publisher change, the title and volume sequence continue without a restart. Independent evidence also links expert participation across Volumes 3 and 4. Taken together, the evidence supports treating the 2006 material as a continuation of the same magazine under new publishing control rather than as a separate magazine using the same name.

Snake related material is especially strong in the represented holdings. The covers and interior pages address royal pythons, common boas, blood pythons, diamond pythons, Honduran milk snakes, python husbandry, snake feeding, and behavioral enrichment. The interior article Snakes on the couch is particularly useful as a historical record of changing ideas about reptile welfare because it explicitly considers boredom, environmental complexity, exercise, hunting behavior and mental stimulation in captive snakes.

Two articles in the represented issues offer particularly valuable evidence of the publication's editorial range. Chris Jones's "Activating appetites" in Volume 3, Issue 5 documents contemporary approaches to feeding refusal, enclosure conditions, seasonal behavior, and keeper intervention. Volume 3, Issue 6 includes Pete Blake's tribute to Steve Irwin following his death in 2006, illustrating how the magazine also preserved the reptile community's response to the loss of a prominent conservation communicator.

The 2007 editorial "A new beginning" announces that the magazine has new owners and staff, accompanied by changes in its advisory panel, contributors, photography, and visual presentation. Comparison of mastheads identifies changes in the publishing company, publisher, and editor. At the same time, certain people and commercial contacts continued across the transition, documenting both institutional change and continuity.

The surviving issues also reveal inconsistent bibliographic practices. The earlier 2003-2005 sequence uses cumulative issue numbers without reliably stating volumes; the 2006 sequence uses Volume 3 with Issues 1-6; and the subsequent issue is labeled Volume 4, Issue 1. A competition notice printed in Volume 4, Issue 1 nevertheless refers to "Prize for Volume 3 Issue 8." These inconsistencies make the original physical copies valuable evidence of the complexities of reconstructing this short-lived serial.

Publication Continuity Assessment

Available evidence favors a single serial with a publisher change. The earlier issues use cumulative issue numbers, while later issues also display volume and issue numbering. By the 2007 publishing era, the cover is marked Volume 4, Issue 1 rather than restarting at Volume 1. A restart would normally be expected if an unrelated publisher had independently launched a new magazine under the same title.

The 2007 masthead identifies Reptile Care UK Ltd. at 126-128 Gloucester Road North, Filton, Bristol BS34 7BQ. The gallery submission instructions also print editor@reptilecareuk.com. This is a historical contact address and should not be assumed current. Personnel appearing across supplied mastheads include Phillip Northcott and Matt Bower in earlier issues, and Dana Roseberry in 2006 and 2007 advertising information. Pete Blake appears on the 2006 editorial board and as the 2007 publisher. The evidence establishes overlap, not the legal terms of an ownership transfer.

Within the “Reptile Gallery” page of Volume 4, Issue 1, the contest heading states “Prize for Volume 3 Issue 8,” describes a prize in the next issue, and gives an entry deadline of 20 April 2007. Its footer simultaneously reads “Volume 4 / Issue 1.” The heading does not establish that Volume 3, Issue 8 was actually produced. An uncorrected production reference, changed schedule, or undocumented numbering practice are possible explanations; none has been confirmed.

There is also evidence of contributor continuity. Andrew Tillson Willis later described serving as an amphibian expert on the Reptile Care question and answer panel through Volumes 3 and 4. That statement crosses the publisher transition and supports continuity of the editorial product. Publications credited to Reptile Care Magazine in 2006 likewise treat the title as an ongoing magazine rather than a new launch.

The exact legal or commercial mechanism has not been located. No surviving public source located during this research states whether Reptile Care UK Ltd. purchased the title, acquired selected assets, licensed the name, or reached another arrangement with Mulberry Publications Ltd. The archival record should therefore state that publication control changed, while leaving the form of that transfer unresolved.

Publication Metadata and Masthead Documentation

Working chronology supplied for research (not an assertion that all copies are represented): 2003, Issues 1 and 2 (months unverified); 2004, Issue 3 January/February, Issue 4 March/April, Issue 5 May/June, July/August number unverified, September/October number unverified, Issue 8 November/December; 2005, Issue 9 January/February, Issue 10 March/April, Issue 11 May/June, July/August number unverified, Issue 13 September/October, Issue 14 November/December; 2006, Volume 3 Issues 1-6 in successive paired months January/February through November/December; 2007, Volume 4 Issue 1 in January. Do not infer unprinted volume designations for earlier issues or infer the existence of a Volume 3 Issue 8 from the contest heading.

Publisher and Editorial Eras

Field	Information
Mulberry Publications Ltd. era	2004–2006 represented mastheads. Colchester, Essex. Publisher Phillip Northcott; editors documented include Chris Brock and Mark O’Sullivan. Production includes Matt Bower.
Reptile Care UK Ltd. era	Volume 4, Issue 1 (2007). Filton, Bristol. Publisher Pete Blake; editor Angela Nelson. The editorial “A new beginning” announces new owners and staff.
Assessment	Continuing Reptile Care serial with a change of publisher and management. The mechanism of transfer and exact date remain unverified.

Publication Origins and Frequency

A British Herpetological Society advertisement from late 2003 introduced Reptile Care as a new magazine for reptile enthusiasts on both sides of the Atlantic. The advertisement described it as bimonthly and promoted six issues for the price of five. The represented cover sequence is consistent with that schedule: Issue 3 is January 2004, Issue 4 is March 2004, Issue 5 is May 2004, Issue 7 is September / October 2004, Issue 9 is January / February 2005 and Issue 11 is May / June 2005.

This evidence indicates that the magazine was not monthly during the represented period. The safest archival description is bimonthly, approximately six issues per year, while preserving the exact month or paired month notation printed on each physical issue.

International Distribution

The late 2003 British Herpetological Society advertisement addressed reptile enthusiasts on both sides of the Atlantic. Specific overseas distributors, circulation figures and country-by-country distribution arrangements: Pending research update.

Issues Represented in the Collection

Field	Information
Issue 3, January 2004	Calmer Chameleon; saw scale viper; Woods Turtle; alligators.
Issue 4, March 2004	Royal Pythons; housing chameleons; Green Lizard; Golden Mantella.
Issue 5, May 2004	Emerald Tree Boa; Nile Crocodile; Uroplatus leaf tailed gecko.
Issue 7, September / October 2004	Anniversary issue. Corn Snakes; King Cobra; breeding Bearded Dragons; Green Iguana.
Issue 9, January / February 2005	Common Boas; Red Eared Sliders; Blood Pythons; Foam Nest Frogs; Brady Barr.
Issue 11, May / June 2005	Diamond Pythons; Bearded Dragons; housing; ultraviolet light.
Issue 13, September / October 2005	Round Island reptiles; Fat Tailed Geckos; Honduran Milk Snakes; tarantulas.
Issue 14, November / December 2005	Python Special. Royal Python, Irian Jaya Carpet Python, Boelens Python, Jungle Carpet Python; captive breeding in Indonesia; Atheris viper.
Volume 3, Issue 1	Mata Mata; Giant African Land Snails; Rainbow Boas; captive breeding in Indonesia.
Volume 3, Issue 2	Bob Clark, King of the Pythons; Vietnamese Mossy Frog; Kimberley Rock Monitors.; Robert Mestre interview with Bob Clark, “Face to Face with the Python Man” (pp. 10-13).
Volume 3, Issue 5	Tokay geckos; feeding special; Project Black Python; historical herping.; Chris Jones, “Activating appetites” (pp. 20-23).
Volume 3, Issue 6	Tortoise behavior and defense; Steve Irwin remembrance; snake psychology; rare crocodilians.; Pete Blake’s tributes to Steve Irwin and Jane Weightman (pp. 12-13).
Volume 4, Issue 1, 2007	Sonoran Mountain Kingsnakes; Crocodile Skinks; Boelens Pythons. Reptile Care UK Ltd. era; 2007 editorial announces new owners and staff.

Interior Evidence: Snakes on the couch

Volume 3, Issue 6 contains the feature Snakes on the couch by Chris Jones in the Happy Herps section. The article asks whether a captive snake can be bored or depressed and presents a guide to what it calls serpent psychology. Across pages 28 to 31, Jones discusses enclosure size, hiding places, substrate variety, climbing structure, basking choices, water presentation, feeding activity, scent trails, handling and other forms of stimulation.

The article is historically valuable because it treats behavioral enrichment as part of snake husbandry rather than limiting care to food, water, heat and a hiding place. Its language and specific recommendations reflect the husbandry knowledge of its time and should not automatically be treated as current best practice. As an archival source, however, it provides unusually direct evidence of welfare and enrichment discussions within the reptile hobby during the mid 2000s.

Interior Evidence: Non-Toxic Plant List

Volume 3, Issue 6 also includes a full page Non-Toxic Plant List on page 11. The table pairs common plant names with scientific names and includes warnings not to confuse similarly named plants with toxic species. A disclaimer states that listed plants had been used by experienced reptile keepers but that individual animals could react differently and that veterinary advice should be sought when needed.

This page demonstrates the magazine's practical reference function. It attempted to provide readers with immediately usable enclosure and feeding information while also including cautions about uncertainty and species level variation.

Interior Evidence: Bob Clark Interview

Volume 3, Issue 2, pages 10-13, contains “Face to Face with the Python Man,” an interview with Bob Clark conducted by Robert Mestre. Clark recalls beginning to breed Burmese pythons in 1974 and discusses breeding, the selection of snakes for new keepers, and responsibility in reptile ownership. He describes Fluffy, his reticulated python, as weighing a little over 300 pounds and measuring about 24 feet. These measurements are Clark’s statements as reported in the interview, not independently verified measurements.

The interview is valuable both as a contemporary account of large-python breeding and as a record of debates concerning color morphs, keeping unsuitable species, escape or release of non-native reptiles, and potential regulation. Clark argues that keepers should select animals appropriate to their circumstances and avoid releasing non-native animals. The piece preserves his views in their original historical context without treating them as universal current guidance.

Interior Evidence: Activating appetites

Volume 3, Issue 5, pages 20-23, contains “Activating appetites,” written by Chris Jones under the Feeding Solutions heading. The article discusses possible reasons that captive snakes refuse food, including insufficient cover, unsuitable enclosure space or temperature, prey characteristics, handling-related stress, seasonality, and reproductive behavior. It describes a range of techniques then used by keepers to encourage feeding, including changes to surroundings, prey scent or presentation, and timing.

The article is especially useful as historical husbandry evidence because it acknowledges species differences, the importance of shelter and security, and the effects of stress while also describing methods whose safety and acceptability should not be assumed today. In particular, its references to live prey and forced feeding require contemporary veterinary and welfare scrutiny rather than adoption as recommendations from this archival record. Jones is identified in the article as director of Pet Club UK Ltd.

Interior Evidence: Tributes to Steve Irwin and Jane Weightman

Volume 3, Issue 6, pages 12-13, contains “A total passion,” a tribute to Steve Irwin written by Pete Blake after Irwin’s death in September 2006. The piece discusses Irwin’s enthusiasm for wildlife, the development of Australia Zoo and his television work, and his influence on public appreciation of reptiles and conservation. Blake also reflects on Irwin’s family and collaborators. On the same two-page spread, Blake separately remembers Jane Weightman, noting her support for other reptile keepers and involvement in reptile forums and the Corn Snake Fan Club.

These tributes document personal relationships and community memory within British herpetoculture. They also show that Reptile Care functioned as more than a care manual: it recorded reactions to public events and commemorated individuals who influenced reptile keeping and conservation. The views and biographical recollections are attributed to Pete Blake as the contemporary author.

Editorial Scope and Historical Context

The represented run covers snakes, lizards, turtles, tortoises, crocodilians, frogs, invertebrates and enclosure related topics. Articles range from basic care to advanced breeding, behavior, lighting and species focused natural history. The covers repeatedly emphasize housing, feeding and breeding, while later issues also advertise scientific snippets, expert advice and reader galleries.

A contemporary British Herpetological Society advertisement described Reptile Care as serving both beginners and more experienced keepers and breeders. That description matches the surviving issues, which mix introductory care articles with more specialized subjects such as ultraviolet lighting, python breeding, antipredator behavior and behavioral enrichment.

Additional primary evidence: photographed 2004, 2006, and 2007 masthead/editorial pages; Volume 4, Issue 1 “A new beginning” and “Reptile Gallery” competition page, including its printed Volume 3 Issue 8 reference and 20 April 2007 deadline. The accompanying 2003-2007 chronology is a research reconstruction, not a complete list of physical holdings.

Independent Verification

The British Herpetological Society carried advertisements for Reptile Care in 2003 and 2004, independently confirming that the magazine was a British bimonthly reptile publication using the reptilecaremagazine.com website. A later herpetological bibliography describes Reptile Care as a United Kingdom magazine that is now out of print.

Independent professional records also document continuing Reptile Care activity in 2006. Christina Miller lists several 2006 articles published in Reptile Care Magazine, while Andrew Tillson Willis records service on the magazine's amphibian expert panel through Volumes 3 and 4. These sources support the conclusion that the Volume 4 material belongs to the same continuing magazine despite the publisher change.

The Volume 3 Issue 8 contest reference conflicts with the documented six-issue 2006 Volume 3 sequence and the Volume 4 Issue 1 label. It must not be entered as a confirmed published issue without independent evidence. Earlier undated or unnumbered copies must retain blank or unverified fields rather than reconstructed values.

Website Category Placement

Field	Information
Primary section	Magazine Preservation
Country grouping	United Kingdom
Publication title	Reptile Care
Represented span	2004 through 2007
Publication frequency	Bimonthly, approximately six issues per year
Publisher history	Mulberry Publications Ltd. followed by Reptile Care UK Ltd. (Volume 4, Issue 1, 2007).
Preservation emphasis	British herpetoculture, publisher transition, snake husbandry, behavioral enrichment, captive breeding, practical husbandry references and early 2000s reptile welfare discussion

Source Notes

Field	Information
Physical covers	Primary evidence for represented issue numbers, dates, prices, volume sequence, cover subjects and visual continuity.
Collection masthead research	Masthead evidence for Mulberry Publications Ltd., Phillip Northcott, Chris Brock, Mark O’Sullivan, and Matt Bower in earlier years; Volume 4, Issue 1 (2007) identifies Reptile Care UK Ltd., Pete Blake, and Angela Nelson. The 2007 editorial documents new ownership and staff.
Volume 3, Issue 6 interior pages	Primary evidence for Snakes on the couch by Chris Jones, the Happy Herps section, page numbering and the Non-Toxic Plant List.

Field	Information
British Herpetological Society advertisements	Contemporary independent evidence for the launch period, bimonthly schedule, six issue subscription offer and reptilecaremagazine.com website.
Professional contributor records	Independent evidence that contributors and expert panel participation continued into 2006 and across Volumes 3 and 4.
Later herpetological bibliography	Independent evidence that Reptile Care was a United Kingdom herpetoculture magazine that later ceased publication.
Newly supplied interior photographs	Volume 3, Issue 2, pp. 10-13 (Bob Clark interview); Volume 3, Issue 5, pp. 20-23 (“Activating appetites”); Volume 3, Issue 6, pp. 12-13 (Steve Irwin and Jane Weightman tributes).

Research Cautions

- The publisher change is established, but the legal mechanism is not. No public source located during this research confirms an acquisition, sale, license or asset transfer between Mulberry Publications Ltd. and Reptile Care UK Ltd.
- The continuous volume sequence and contributor continuity support treating the 2007 Volume 4 material as the same serial. If a later masthead or publisher announcement explicitly describes a relaunch, this conclusion should be revisited.
- The magazine should be described as bimonthly rather than monthly for the represented run. Contemporary advertising and the cover sequence both support approximately six issues per year. No ISSN was located in the available public research or supplied cover evidence, so one should not be added unless verified from a masthead, library serial record or other authoritative source.