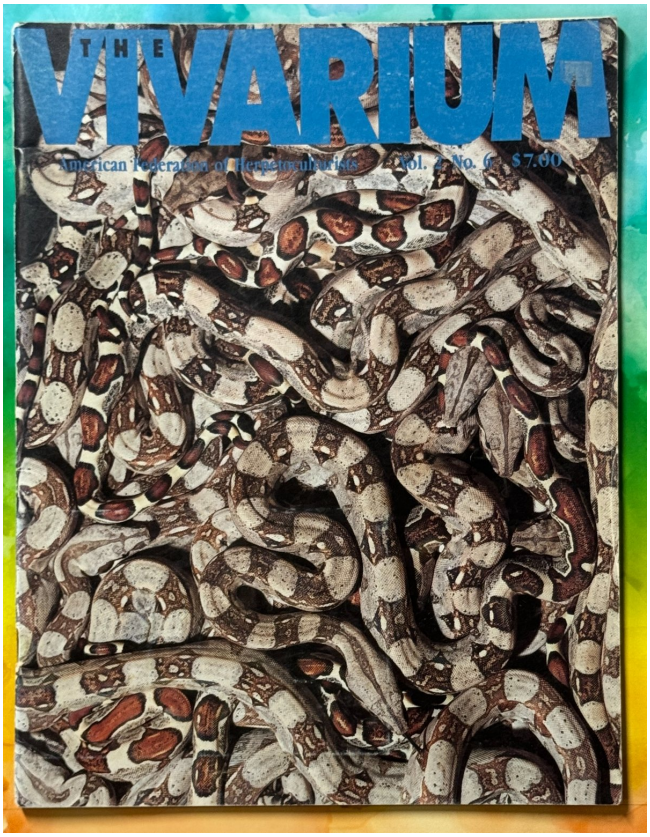
The Vivarium

Magazine Research Record



Volume 5, Number 5. Representative snake focused issue featuring Breeding Bushmasters and Temple Viper.

Publication Identification

Field	Information
Country	United States
Publisher	American Federation of Herpetoculturists (AFH); later Vivarium Publishing Group, Inc.
Publisher address	Pending research update
Magazine title	The Vivarium
Publication status	Discontinued; formal serial record ends February / March 2000
Publication run	Volume 1, Number 1, Winter 1988 through Volume 11, Number 2, February / March 2000
Editor	Pending research update
Printer	Pending research update
ISSN	1047-2665
Language	English
Publication type	Color herpetoculture magazine and journal focused on captive care, breeding, natural history, conservation, legislation and the human relationship with reptiles and amphibians
Publication frequency	Bimonthly
Collection coverage	Volume 2, Number 1; Volume 5, Number 5; Volume 7, Numbers 3 and 5; Volume 8, Numbers 2, 4 and 6; Volume 9, Numbers 1 and 4; Volume 10, Number 2
Earliest issue represented	Volume 2, Number 1
Latest issue represented	Volume 10, Number 2
Place of publication	Escondido, California

Preservation Significance

The Vivarium has substantial preservation significance because it was one of the formative American periodicals of modern herpetoculture. The American Federation of Herpetoculturists began publishing the magazine in the late 1980s, and former AFH president Philippe de Vosjoli later described it as the first internationally distributed color magazine devoted to the keeping and breeding of amphibians and reptiles.

The surviving issues document a period when organized private herpetoculture was becoming increasingly visible in the United States. The magazine addressed captive care and breeding, vivarium design, veterinary and nutrition topics, field observations, conservation, legislation, ethical questions and the relationship between people and reptiles and amphibians. That combination makes the publication useful as a record of both practical animal keeping and the developing culture surrounding reptile and amphibian ownership.

The represented issues also preserve a broad range of snake material, including bushmasters, temple vipers, Honduran milk snakes, emerald tree boas, boa constrictors, blue beauty snakes, large reptile ownership and big snake safety. For a collection with a strong snake focus, The Vivarium provides particularly useful evidence of how snake husbandry, breeding, safety and natural history were communicated to serious keepers during the 1990s.

Publication History

Independent serial records identify The Vivarium as the official publication of the American Federation of Herpetoculturists and give a publication run from Volume 1, Number 1 in Winter 1988 through Volume 11, Number 2 in February / March 2000. The same records identify the magazine as a regular bimonthly periodical published in Escondido, California.

The Responsible Herpetoculture Foundation, whose leadership includes former AFH president Philippe de Vosjoli, preserves an archive of The Vivarium and describes the magazine as beginning in 1987 as the publishing project of the AFH. Its historical account notes that during much of the 1990s the magazine could be found in major bookstores and pet stores throughout the United States.

The AFH eventually ceased operations and The Vivarium ended in 2000. The preserved physical issues therefore document a finite period in the development of American herpetoculture rather than a continuously published modern title.

Publication Metadata and Masthead Documentation

The historical publishing record identifies the American Federation of Herpetoculturists and later Vivarium Publishing Group, Inc. Specific publisher street address, editor, and printer details: Pending research update.

International Distribution

The Responsible Herpetoculture Foundation describes The Vivarium as internationally distributed. Issue-specific international distributors and circulation figures: Pending research update.

Issues Represented in the Collection

Field	Information
Volume 2, Number 1	Cover features a tortoise. Additional cover subjects include care of the Western Green Rat Snake and raising poison dart frogs.
Volume 5, Number 5	Breeding Bushmasters and Temple Viper. $7.00 cover price.
Volume 7, Number 3	Emerald Tree Boa; Argentine Black and White Tegu; ornate Uromastyx; profile of Edward Drinker Cope; Big Snake Bites, Part II.
Volume 7, Number 5	Honduran Milk Snakes; leaf tailed geckos; reintroduction of a native species; true chameleons; gliding treefrogs; flat rock scorpions.

Volume 8, Number 2	What's Hot for 1997; reptile lighting; gecko related material.
Volume 8, Number 4	Special Breeding Issue; perentie monitors; outdoor vivaria; raising tadpoles.
Volume 8, Number 6	Special Poison Frog Feature; breeding ornate spiny tailed lizards; Australian leaf tailed geckos; mountain toad of Vietnam. This issue is represented in the collection in part because of its visually distinctive pale or white lizard cover.
Volume 9, Number 1	Taking a New Look at Boa Constrictors; hypomelanism in colubrids; breeding land mullet; Malayan flat shelled turtle; chameleon acquisition.
Volume 9, Number 4	Color variations in panther chameleons; Blue Beauty Snake; diseases of bearded dragons; crickets and nutritional supplements.
Volume 10, Number 2	Responsible Ownership of Large Reptiles; Paradox Boa; knob tailed geckos; veiled chameleons; Madagascar red rain frog; Uromastyx benti.

Collection Notes

The represented group was assembled primarily for reptile and snake related content rather than as a complete chronological run. Volume 8, Number 6 was retained in part because the pale lizard cover is visually unusual and appealing. A specific acquisition reason is not documented for Volume 2, Number 1, the tortoise cover issue. Retaining that uncertainty is preferable to assigning a significance that was not recorded at the time of acquisition.

Editorial Scope

The covers demonstrate that The Vivarium was broader than a conventional pet care magazine. Its editorial subjects included captive breeding, disease, nutrition, lighting, outdoor enclosures, field ecology, native species reintroduction, profiles of historical naturalists, venomous snakes, large reptile safety, frogs, turtles, lizards and a wide variety of snakes.

The magazine also repeatedly framed herpetoculture as an organized discipline. Cover lines such as Human/Reptile Interface at the Edge of the Third Millennium, When Humans Are Not Enough, Responsible Ownership of Large Reptiles and The Cutting Edge of Herpetoculture show an effort to discuss standards, responsibility and the place of reptile keeping within a changing social environment.

Snake Related Content

Snake coverage is prominent across the surviving issues. The represented run includes articles or cover features on Western Green Rat Snakes, bushmasters, temple vipers, Honduran milk snakes, emerald tree boas, boa constrictors, hypomelanism in colubrids, Blue Beauty Snakes, Paradox Boas and large snake bites.

The publication also addressed safety and responsibility around large constrictors. A 1995 Los Angeles Times article discussing reptile keeping specifically cited The Vivarium article Big Snake Bites, Part II and reproduced its warning about the danger of handling large pythons alone. This provides independent evidence that material from the magazine was reaching readers beyond the immediate AFH membership.

Organizational and Publishing Context

The Vivarium was closely associated with the American Federation of Herpetoculturists. Serial records identify it as the official publication of the AFH, while surviving later issues and archival descriptions also document Vivarium Publishing Group, Inc. as the publishing entity.

Historical accounts identify Philippe de Vosjoli as one of the founding figures behind both the AFH and The Vivarium. Later retrospective material credits the magazine with helping popularize the term herpetoculture

and with giving captive reptile and amphibian keeping a more organized public identity during the late 1980s and 1990s.

Independent Verification

The Responsible Herpetoculture Foundation maintains a dedicated archive of The Vivarium and identifies the magazine as an AFH publication begun in the late 1980s. Its historical account states that it was the first internationally distributed color magazine devoted to the keeping and breeding of amphibians and reptiles.

CiNii serial records independently identify the publication as The Vivarium, published by the American Federation of Herpetoculturists in Escondido, California, with ISSN 1047-2665 and a bimonthly schedule. The record gives the full serial span as Winter 1988 through February / March 2000.

Contemporary newspaper coverage from 1995 and 1997 also documents The Vivarium as an active herpetoculture publication available to the public and associated with the American Federation of Herpetoculturists.

Website Category Placement

Field	Information
Primary section	Magazine Preservation
Country grouping	United States
Publication title	The Vivarium
Organization	American Federation of Herpetoculturists
Publication period	1988 to 2000 in serial records
Frequency	Bimonthly
Language	English
Preservation emphasis	American herpetoculture history, snake husbandry and breeding, responsible reptile ownership, AFH organizational history and pre internet specialist publishing

Source Notes

Field	Information
Physical covers	Primary evidence for represented volume and issue numbers, cover prices, issue themes, cover subjects, design changes and snake related content.
Responsible Herpetoculture Foundation	Historical account and archive describing the origins, purpose, distribution and end of The Vivarium and the American Federation of Herpetoculturists.
CiNii serial record	Independent bibliographic evidence for title, publisher, place of publication, ISSN, bimonthly frequency and publication span.
Los Angeles Times, 1995 and 1997	Contemporary evidence that The Vivarium was circulating publicly during the 1990s and that its husbandry and safety material was being read outside the immediate organization.
Damien.world existing publication notes	Existing collection documentation for later Vivarium Publishing Group and editorial information associated with represented issues.

Research Cautions

- Masthead photographs were not supplied for these issues. Editor, assistant editor, printer, mailing address and other issue specific staff information should not be generalized across the complete run unless verified from the individual issue.
- Historical sources differ slightly on whether the magazine is described as beginning in 1987 or with Volume 1, Number 1 in Winter 1988. The safest formulation is that the AFH publishing project began in 1987 and the formal numbered serial record begins with Winter 1988.

- The organization and publishing entity changed over the life of the magazine. American Federation of Herpetoculturists and Vivarium Publishing Group, Inc. should be recorded according to the evidence for the specific issue being described.
- The collection does not represent a complete run. The photographed issues should be treated as the documented holdings unless additional issues are later added or verified.
- The tortoise cover issue, Volume 2, Number 1, remains in the collection without a documented acquisition rationale. No explanation should be invented simply to make the record appear more complete.
- The pale lizard cover on Volume 8, Number 6 is retained partly for visual interest. That collection choice is separate from the historical or scientific significance of the publication itself.