

RADIANT REPTILES CANADA

QUALITY THAT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF



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HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

Tis the season for love and we are very much eager to see what amazing animals we produce this year.

We are hoping for visual Albinos, Toffee-Bellies, Lavenders, and hopefully some Axanths! As far as pattern combinations, we should have a mix of Normals, Anacondas and maybe some Supercondas.

Prices all relate to the pattern, morph, sex, age, hets, and a combination thereof.

Due to the gamble of breeding and genetics, we have no guarantee of any morph, pattern or sex. This is why we do not take any deposits until the animals are posted on our website's availability page.





GEARING UP FOR THE BREEDING SEASON

THE ART OF HURRY UP AND WAIT

At the end of January, we gradually warmed up our brumating Western Hognoses, prepping them for this year's breeding season. Weigh-ins and check-ups have been completed, all there is to do now is to get a couple more meals into our breeding animals before pairing.

Western hognoses are a sexually dimorphic species, with adult females being far larger and heavier than their counterparts. Courtship for the male Western Hognose can be a precarious business as females are known to try to eat their partners – sometimes even after being recently fed. (another reason to never cohabitate your Western Hognoses!)

We monitor all of our animals closely, waiting for the comical signs of “courtship” which often includes both males and females rhythmically twitching, the male following the female around the enclosure – often hitching a ride on her back, and the female doing an odd tail wag which is thought to waft pheromones. However, they sometimes just curl up together instead (much to our disappointment).

We tend to leave our pairs together for 3 days, unpair, feed, wait for 2-3 days and re-pair. If we believe the male has not done the deed after a month or so, we swap him out for a back-up male. It can be an exciting time as a breeder, but also a frustrating one if you are as impatient as I am. It can take many pairings sometimes for the female to take, other times they get the deed done immediately. It generally takes around 30+ days to see any eggs.





WORKING WITH NEWFOUNDLAND

GOVERNMENTS AND PERMITS

In December 2020 we had an individual, based in Newfoundland, reach out to us inquiring about a Western Hognose. We let them know that a permit would be required, yet we did not know of anyone in Newfoundland who had been successful in obtaining a pet level permit for *Heterodon Nasicus*.

This individual had already done their due diligence and had been in contact with folks working in Newfoundland's Wildlife Research, Endangered Species and Biodiversity sector to apply for a permit and had started a dialogue on the topic. They were hoping we would be open to working with them on this project and if we could forward proof that our animals come from captive-bred, healthy sources.

Many regions of Canada require permits for various reptile species. To our knowledge, a large number of those requests are denied. What we don't know is why. It could be the ease of saying no, lack of research, media folklore, myths, public pressure (fears), a lack of polite persistence from applicants, and or a combination thereof.

Because of this, we were honestly sceptical that a pet level permit would be obtainable. We truly believe in spreading awareness about reptiles and hope to make gradual changes where we can, which is why we were happy to collaborate in the process.

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Knowing that it would take more than just letting the Biodiversity sector know that we have captive-bred animals - I chose to write a polite lengthy letter. I outlined everything from how the Western Hognose (Plains Hognose) is considered a harmless reptile, information regarding bites, background information about ourselves, how we promote questions and education at every level so clients know what they are getting into so the animal will not suffer, our stance on providing healthy animals, and the pros of having permits be obtainable.

We explained how it does not solve any problems by creating barriers or outright bans for harmless animals. Doing so can, and has, led to a host of issues such as - an increase in black market pet sales, not having access to vet care, higher neglect of animals, and instances of people still choosing to keep restricted/illegal species.

Most importantly, I let them know that we were more than happy to provide any information needed, help where we could, and be open to ideas. I sent the email off and got a reply swiftly.

It turned out that they were indeed open to the idea and would get back to us after doing their own research. I am very impressed and overjoyed that they listened to the three of us, and have been so great to work with.

We found out later that out of the many breeders and pet stores contacted, we were the only ones willing to take the time to pursue making this happen.

Our potential client recently received his permit and we are all very excited to move forward in this win for the reptile community!

- You can read more about this from our new friend's perspective on our testimonial page.

FEEL CONFIDENT CHOOSING US

We want all of our clients to feel secure buying from us, likewise, we want to feel good about the homes that we send our animals to.

CHOOSING US AS YOUR BREEDER, WAYS WE GO ABOVE AND BEYOND.

Education has always come first with us. All of our care information and husbandry standards are constantly being updated and cross-checked, so you don't have to wade through fact or fiction, and can feel good about the care you give your new reptile.

Being a small home-based breeder, we get to know every animal we care for. This helps us suggest individual animals best suited to our client's needs and experience level. When asked, we provide a short video of the animal in question so you can feel secure about your purchase.

All of our Western Hognose babies are held-back for a minimum of 10+ consecutive feedings of frozen-thawed non-scented mice. Many sellers only hold back for 5. Allowing for extra meals helps establish them, which decreases the likelihood of going off of food later in life. This provides you with a robust baby to start with. That way, if anything does go wrong, you are not stuck with a 6-gram baby who is losing weight. We will never sell an un-eating animal or one who is sickly.

We do lab-grade *Cryptosporidium* testing here regularly. All of our hold-backs and breeding animals have had a minimum of 3 tests each. Any new arrivals are fully tested before leaving quarantine.

Our breeding animals have been hand-picked for their genetics and quality from reputable breeders around the world. You can be confident that the animal we sell you has the genetics we claim.

Remember, keeping a pet reptile is a long-term commitment. We expect our clients to read our care guide and to provide the same level of care to our animals that we provide. Questions are encouraged prior, during, and well after a sale of any animal!

You can view testimonials folks have left us on our website and FB pg.

Regardless of whether or not you chose to purchase from us, please do your research and support reputable sources. :)





EXCLUSIVE NEWSLETTER PROMOTIONS

For February 2021 We are offering free first-access to our downloadable V-day themed wallpapers for your phone and or Computer.

Enter the below address into your browser. Right-click on the image/s > save as > and save them directly to your phone/computer. Once on your system > right-click and select "Set as desktop background"

Enjoy! 😊



www.radiantreptilescanada.com/feb-promo-2021

As always, we encourage questions and suggestions. If you have an idea for a future newsletter topic please email us at RadiantReptilesCanada@gmail.com