

## Caring for exotic pets

Many children and adults like unusual animals and want to buy or adopt them. Below you can find some of the most important things for keeping such pets. It is only an introduction, however. If you decide to get an exotic pet, you will have to do a lot of research before you bring it home.



Lizards and snakes live in terrariums – large glass or plastic tanks. Most reptiles need a heater at one end of the tank, to get areas of different temperatures. Many pet lizards also must have a UV lamp because of vitamin D. You should regularly mist the tank with water so there is enough humidity. Lizards eat insects, crickets, locusts and worms; snakes eat dead baby mice. If you don't like to touch such things, think twice about pet reptiles!



Tarantulas are a little easier to take care of, but they can live up to 20 years! Make sure you know what to do with your pet if you aren't sure you can keep it that long. They live in glass tanks called vivariums. You only feed them once a week, but it is again with crickets, worms, roaches and baby mice. Another thing to keep in mind is that these spiders can bite, which is uncomfortable and painful.



Ferrets need large wire cages in a quiet part of the house because they don't like noise. They eat only meat, but it doesn't have to be alive – you can get ferret food in pet shops. You also need to give your pet regular baths, brush its teeth and fur, and clip their nails. One problem with ferrets is that they get sick often and going to a veterinarian can be expensive.

Make a chart to compare different exotic pets:

	1) Reptiles	2) Spiders	3) Ferrets
Living arrangements			
Food			
Extra care			
Good sides			
Bad sides			

You can add a fourth column for an exotic pet of your choice.