

CARING FOR REPTILE FOOD

You are what you eat! The same applies to our pets too & the following tips will ensure that you maintain your reptiles food to maintain freshness.

Crickets

- *Place them in a larger container with ventilation.
- *Use a substrate with some absorbancy.
- *Add some chick starter or rabbit pellet to nibble on.
- *Feed the medium - large crickets on carrot & the smaller ones on cos lettuce. Remove & replace the veggies every day to avoid other pests moving in.
- *Keep the egg carton that comes with them so they can use this as a hide.
- *Keep them warm. Crickets like dry heat.
- *Dont give them an open dish of water. Cickets are not the smartest creatures & will happily all jump into a tub of water & drown.
- *A wet sponge will work or if only keeping them for a few days just keep the veggies fresh.

Mealworms

Mealworms (*Tenebrio molitor*) are the larval stage of the Darkling beetle (*Tenebrio molitor*).

- *To keep mealies fresh for longer periods of time they are best kept in the fridge.
- *Top up the bran that they are in once a week. You can buy unprocessed bran from the supermarket.
- *Carrots are their favourite food!
- *Keep dry.



Frozen food

Our frozen mice have been formula fed to provide superior nutrition for reptiles. They are:

- *Readily accepted by snakes & carnivorous lizards
- *Safe & easy to feed
- *Packaged in a zip lock bag for fresh storage
- *Best stored in the freezer, never re-freeze thawed food.
- *Able to be stored in the freezer for up to 3 months unless marked otherwise.

Snakes should not be handled before feeding.

Snakes should always be fed separately.

Place a frozen rodent bag in a cup of warm water for 30 minutes to thaw.

Do not microwave.

Once the rodent is completely thawed, grasp it by the tail with feeding tongs. & present it to the snake.

A little wiggling of the rodent may be needed to simulate & encourage a feeding response.

Release the rodent once the snake strikes & acquires.

Always wash hands after handling the rodents.

Frequency of feeding depends on the species, our knowledgeable staff can advise you on this.

Pellet diets

- *Always store in a cool dry place in an airtight container.
- *Feed according to directions & always dispose of when expiry date has been reached.

