

## How can I contribute to reptile and amphibian conservation?

*Brought to you by Carolina WISE*

### At Home

- ★ **Keep your cats indoors:** Cats are extremely effective predators, and kill far more animals than they bring back for you to see.
- ★ **Don't release pet amphibians or reptiles into the wild:** Nonnative pets can spread deadly diseases to native species or become invasive.
- ★ **Don't flush medicine down the toilet:** Medicine may remain in the water supply even after wastewater treatment, and can alter animal behavior if it enters local waterways.

### In the Garden

- ★ **Plant native plants:** Plants provide shelter for reptiles and amphibians, and food for their insect prey.
- ★ **Create a compost pile:** Reptiles and amphibians can find shelter and food in the compost, and you can use the compost you create to fertilize your garden!
- ★ **Use fewer pesticides and herbicides:** Pesticides concentrate as they travel up the food chain, and herbicides can easily enter an amphibian's permeable skin.
- ★ **Keep your local ponds and waterways clean:** Don't litter and use fertilizer sparingly to prevent fertilizer runoff and eutrophication of water bodies.

### ...and Beyond!

- ★ **Support environmental legislation at the local, state, and national levels:** You're all already or almost old enough to vote! Support candidates who fight for environmental conservation.
- ★ **Educate others on the role of amphibians and reptiles in the ecosystem.**
- ★ **Support your local wild spaces:** Wide expanses of wilderness are great for biodiversity, but even small local woods or parks can be important refuges for wildlife.
- ★ **Join your local conservation group, or donate to larger conservation efforts such as [amphibianark.org](http://amphibianark.org) and the IUCN.**
- ★ **Amphibians are ecosystem indicators:** Actions taken to protect ecosystems protects the amphibians, reptiles, and other wildlife within.



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Interesting Websites:

**For Reptiles and Amphibians**

Herps of NC (<http://herpsofnc.org/>)

Herptiles in Your Backyard (<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/reptiles-and-amphibians-in-your-backyard>)

How to Attract Herptiles

(<https://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Conserving/documents/InvitingReptilestoYourBackyard.pdf>)

Listen to Some Weird Bird Sounds (<https://www.xeno-canto.org/>)

Life is Short, but Snakes are Long (<http://snakesarelong.blogspot.com/>)

Society for the Study of Reptiles and Amphibians (<https://ssarherps.org/>)

Tetrapod Zoology (<http://tetzoo.com/>)

**For All Life**

Onezoom Tree of Life Explorer (<http://www.onezoom.org/>)

([http://www.onezoom.org/life/@Sauropsida=639642?img=best\\_any&anim=flight#x1546,y232,w4.1255](http://www.onezoom.org/life/@Sauropsida=639642?img=best_any&anim=flight#x1546,y232,w4.1255))

IUCN (<https://www.iucnredlist.org/>)

Inaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>)

Invasive Species Database (<http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/>)

Real Monstrosities (<http://www.realmonstrosities.com/>)

Macaulay Library (<https://www.macaulaylibrary.org/>)

Biology/Ecology Papers (<http://www.bioone.org/>)

Common Descent Podcast (<https://commondescentpodcast.wordpress.com/>)

Encyclopedia of Life (<https://eol.org/>)

Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com/>)

Tree of Life Web Project (<http://tolweb.org/tree/home.pages/links.html>)

**Thank you for being a wildlife ally!**