

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Flower at 9:00 a.m. on February 7, 1996, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Ballou - Excused  
Representative Crabb - Excused  
Representative Powers - Absent

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes  
Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Joseph T. Collins, Director, The Center for North American Amphibians and Reptiles  
Larry L. Miller, Science Teacher, Topeka Collegiate School  
David L. Reber, Associate Director, Natural Heritage Center, Inc.  
Darrell Montei, Department of Wildlife and Parks  
Mike Cargill, Director of Public Lands, City of Great Bend  
Mark C. Reed, Director, Sedgwick County Zoo  
Karen L. Toepfer, Science Instructor, Felten Middle School, Hays  
Judie Withers, Kansas Rattlesnake Roundup, Sharon Springs  
Sarah Walker, Kansas Rattlesnake Roundup, Sharon Springs  
Larry Graf, Chief Administrative Officer, National Crotalus Society

Others attending: See attached list

Minutes of the January 31 and February 2 meetings were distributed. Chairperson Flower asked members to notify the secretary of any corrections or additions before 5:00 p.m. today or they would stand approved as presented.

**Hearing on HB 2642 - Banning the importation or possession of nonnative snakes and lizards in Kansas.**

Joseph T. Collins, Director, The Center for North American Amphibians and Reptiles, appeared in support of **HB 2642**. He expressed concern that the venom of nonnative venomous species of snakes are more potent than our five native venomous species and that physicians might misdiagnose and incorrectly treat a snakebite with fatal consequences. He suggested that **HB 2642** be amended to make importation of nonnative venomous snakes and lizards into Kansas a Class C misdemeanor. (Attachment 1)

Larry L. Miller, a science teacher at Topeka Collegiate School, appeared as a proponent of **HB 2642**. As a teacher he has taken many school children on nature hikes and camping trips across Kansas. None of his students have ever been bitten by a venomous snake even though native venomous snakes are often encountered by his students. He stated that Kansas native venomous snakes are recognizable, their habitats are predictable, and the students know what to look for. He doesn't feel comfortable taking students into the wild knowing that they may encounter nonnative species that are often more deadly than our native species. He also felt that the penalty for violating this law should be a Class C misdemeanor. (Attachment 2)

David L. Reber, Associate Director, Natural Heritage Center, Inc., and a past president of the Kansas Herpetological Society, spoke in support of **HB 2642**. He addressed the issues of serious injury owing to bites of venomous nonnative snakes, the financial expenses of treatment, and ecological concerns. (Attachment 3)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, Room 423-S Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on February 7, 1996.

Darrell Montei, Department of Wildlife and Parks, presented testimony on **HB 2642**. He stated that the Department has not received many complaints that would be a violation under this bill. He thought other entities might have a better estimate of the amount of importation or possession that occurs. He noted that importation and release of exotic wildlife into the wild is prohibited in the statutes, but was difficult to enforce. This bill requires enforcement through a civil procedure, rather than a misdemeanor process as are all other Department enforced violations. Therefore, the Department recommends that the penalty be considered as a Class C misdemeanor. The Department also recommends that the act be placed in Chapter 21, rather than Chapter 32, so as to be more readily enforceable by any enforcement body. (Attachment 4)

Mike Cargill, Director of Public Lands for the City of Great Bend, testified in support of **HB 2642**, with one suggested amendment. He requests that Section I, paragraph (a), item (3), and Section I, paragraph (f), item (2), be amended from "accredited zoological park" to "zoological park open to the public daily." (Attachment 5)

Mark C. Reed, Director, Sedgwick County Zoo, testified in full support of **HB 2642**. He expressed concern that hobbyists importing venomous reptiles are creating an unnecessary and serious threat to the safety of Kansans. He said that nationwide there has been a growing number of exotic snakebites occurring among private collectors. Incorrect identification of the species could lead the poison control center and physicians to a misdiagnosis. Antivenoms are produced for many, but certainly not all, species and are considered to be experimental drugs. He stated that only a limited number of institutions have the knowledge and authority to release an antivenom for use by a physician. Zoos provide antivenom on a good samaritan basis. (Attachment 6)

Karen L. Toepfer, a science teacher at Felten Middle School in Hays, submitted written testimony in support of **HB 2642**. She is also the secretary/treasurer of the Kansas Herpetological Society and treasurer of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. In her testimony she stated that nonnative venomous reptiles can upset the delicate balance of an eco-system by out competing the native snakes for food and posing a threat to unsuspecting animals and people. (Attachment 7)

Judie Withers, Sharon Springs, testified in opposition to **HB 2642**. This bill would cause problems for the Kansas Rattlesnake Roundup held annually in Sharon Springs, as they do import western diamondback rattlesnakes for display and for butchering during their event. Many species of both poisonous and nonpoisonous snakes are displayed during the event for educational purposes. (Attachment 8)

Sarah Walker, Committee Chairperson of the Sharon Springs Rattlesnake Roundup, appeared in opposition to **HB 2642**. She commented that they display many live snakes and provide educational material and lectures to promote better awareness of the benefits of snakes to our environment. She felt this bill was very prejudicial against anyone who was not associated with a university or zoo. (Attachment 9)

Larry Graf, Onaga, Chief Administrative Officer for the National Crotalus Society and publisher of "N.C.S. News," testified in opposition to **HB 2642**. Copies of his newspaper were provided to the committee. Their organization has prepared a video identifying both venomous and non-venomous snakes. They display snakes and lecture at schools all across the state. This bill would make these lectures and displays illegal as only colleges, museums, and zoos will be able to possess and import venomous snakes. If the concern is the release of these snakes into the wild, why make it illegal to import or possess. He suggested new language for Section I (a) lines 13 through 15 to accomplish this. (Attachment 10)

This concluded the hearing on **HB 2642**.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 1996.

# HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 7 Feb 96

Page 1 of 2

NAME	REPRESENTING
Mark C. Reed	Sedgwick County Zoo
William C. STAEK	Sierka Club
Renee Harris	Lawrence Humane Society
Sarah Walker	Kansas Pottosnake Roundup
Jodi Witzberg	KC Rattlesnake Roundup
Harry F. Guff	NCS News
Debra Duncan	KS Animal Health Dept
George Teagarden	KAHD
Gary BLISS	NCS News
Tom SWAN	Citizen, Manned City
KELLI LARKINS	Kansas Animal Control Association
ELLEN QUERNER	Citizen - Wichita, Kansas
Virginia Spinner, DUM	Citizen - Peabody, Ks.
Mike Cargill	City of Great Bend
Anna Robert	Lawrence
Samuel Collins	Lawrence
Sam Taylor	Wakarusa, Kansas
CRAIG WEINAUER	DOUGLAS CO. (KAC)
DARRELL MONTEI	KDWP

# HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 2/7/96

Page 2 of 2

NAME	REPRESENTING
Mike Beam	Ks LYSTK. ASSN.
DeEtte Huffman	Ks. Sierra Club
JOANNE W. BRIER	KS AUDUBON COUNCIL
Cynthia Abbott	Ks. Audubon Council
Carol Cumberland	Ks Audubon Council, Wichita
Allen Cole	Sierra Club

The Center for North American Amphibians and Reptiles  
1502 Medinah Circle  
Lawrence, Kansas 66047  
(913) 749-3467

7 February 1996

House Agriculture Committee  
Kansas Legislature  
State Capitol  
Topeka, Kansas

Ref: HB 2642

Dear Madam Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

A disturbing newspaper article appeared in the Lawrence Journal World last fall about capture of a Western Diamondback Rattlesnake in Horsethief Canyon near Kanopolis Reservoir in Ellsworth County. Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes are large dangerous reptiles that are *not native* to Kansas. In other words, these snakes were transported into the state and either escaped or were deliberately released in and around Horsethief Canyon, a recreational area visited by thousands of people, especially curious children that like to climb around in such a habitat to look for rocks, toads, turtles, flowers, birds and other fun things.

Statistics show that bites from our five venomous *native* species of snakes have resulted in only one fatality in the last 45 years in Kansas. Conversely, deaths from the bite of the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake in Texas and southern Oklahoma, where it is native, are much greater in number because this reptile is very large and has venom potent enough to kill an adult human being. In addition, it is possible that physicians in Kansas, if unaware that an alien species had been brought into their midst, might mis-diagnose and incorrectly treat a snakebite from a non-native reptile, with fatal consequences.

I strongly urge members of the House Agricultural Committee to pass HB 2642 in order to discourage the importation of these dangerous snakes and lizards into Kansas, and to provide for punishment should anyone bring them to our state. I suggest that HB 2642 be amended to make importation of non-native venomous snakes and lizards into Kansas a Class C misdemeanor, as recommended by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

I feel this legislation is important. Such a law would protect our citizens from painful (and sometimes fatal) encounters with creatures that have no business being brought to Kansas for any reason, would make our parks and wilderness areas safer for public use, and would eliminate the introduction of creatures that might compete with (or even kill) our native wildlife.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Collins  
*Director*

*House Agriculture  
Attachment 1  
2-7-96*

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF H.B. 2642  
WEDNESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 1996  
THE CAPITOL BUILDING (TOPEKA, KS)

Kansas has 96 native species of frogs, toads, salamanders, lizards, turtles, and snakes living within its diverse habitats. With the exception of five native species of snakes, none of our native amphibians or reptiles are venomous. They all have a place in our complex ecosystem, and in fact many are of great economic benefit to Kansas' agricultural community due to the vast numbers of rodents and other harmful pests they consume. This is how I often start the lectures I give during the science classes I teach and when speaking to 4-H groups, wildlife groups, teacher organizations, and others.

My name is Larry Miller, and I have hunted, fished, hiked, camped, or taken photographs in most of Kansas' 105 counties. I am also a teacher, and have escorted hundreds of school children on nature hikes and camping trips across Kansas during the past 25 years.

I teach my students to become familiar with the species of native venomous snakes that might be found in the areas we visit. I also teach them to respect these animal. They are instructed to never attempt to collect any venomous snake encountered during our outings. When encountered, these animals are admired in their natural habitats and left alone. However, we do often collect and study many of Kansas' non-venomous snakes.

This system has worked well during the past 25 years. None of my students have ever been bitten by a venomous snake, even though native venomous snakes are often encounter by students during our field trips. The reason being that Kansas' venomous snakes are recognizable, their habitats are predictable, and the students know what to look for. So why am I here today?

There is the ever increasing problem of individuals bringing non-native venomous animals (mostly snakes) to Kansas for a variety of reasons. More and more of these animals are either escaping or being set free in Kansas. Many will die due to Kansas' harsh winters. However, they can (and do) survive during the warmer months.

*House Agriculture  
Attachment 2  
2-7-96*

Some of the more hardy species may even establish breeding populations within our state.

I know how to prepare my students for encountering our native wildlife. However, I feel less and less comfortable taking students into the wild knowing that they may encounter non-native animals such as cobras or species of non-native rattlesnakes that are many times more deadly than any of our native species. Our health care professionals have a big worry too. Treatments for many non-native venomous snake bites are much different than the standard treatment for bites of native venomous snakes.

I strongly support House Bill 2642. This bill would help keep venomous non-native snakes and lizards out of our state. It would in no way unnecessarily restrict scientific research or change the laws regarding Kansas' native wildlife. It would benefit everyone that works or just enjoys being in Kansas' unique outdoors. Restricting the importation of non-native venomous reptiles could also save human lives.

I would also suggest that the penalty for violating this law should be a Class C misdemeanor.

Thank you for allowing me the time to present this testimony to your committee.

Larry L. Miller  
840 S.W. 97th Street  
Wakarusa, KS 66546  
1-913-836-2119

Madame Chairperson  
House Agricultural Committee

February 6, 1996

Dear Madame Chairperson,

I would like to express my support for House Bill 2642, which will place restrictions on the importing of exotic venomous snakes into the state of Kansas. There are several reasons why I believe such legislation would be in the best interest of Kansans.

There has been in the last few years a marked increase in the keeping of exotic animals, especially reptiles, by the private sector. While this is not inherently problematic, there is reason for concern when such hobbyists begin to keep dangerously venomous animals such as cobras. A quick flip through the classified ads of "Reptiles" or similar magazine will reveal numerous offers of exotic venomous snakes for sale. Unfortunately, many people who purchase such animals do not have appropriate training, skill, or facilities to adequately house and maintain them. Escapes are inevitable, thus keepers of these animals place the general public at risk.

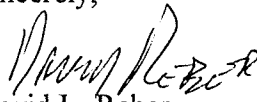
The risk of serious injury owing to bites of exotic venomous snakes is very real, and local physicians may be caught off guard when called upon to treat bites by exotic species. In addition, hospital emergency rooms may not have appropriate antivenin in stock to treat bites of exotic species. Without prompt and appropriate treatment, death or permanent disability may result in up to 50% of all cases. This is far too great a risk for the thrill of keeping an unusual "pet".

There are also financial concerns related to the risk of exotic snakebites. Treatment for venomous snakebite averages around \$10,000, and could be significantly higher in complicated cases. Zoos and scientific institutions which legitimately keep exotic venomous animals are often called upon to provide antivenin for exotic snakebites, at considerable expense, and are often not reimbursed.

Aside from the issues of safety and finance, there are also ecological concerns. Whenever exotic animals are sold in the pet trade, they are likely to be wild-caught animals. In many cases, commercial exploitation of wild animals leads to their depletion in the wild. Funds must then be spent to re-establish and protect populations of such animals. Furthermore, owners of exotic pets often tire of caring for them and, having exhausted all other options, simply release them into the wild outside of their natural range. This could have adverse effects on the natural fauna of the area, as well as creating unnecessary hazards for the public.

Many communities have enacted ordinances restricting the possession of inherently dangerous animals by the private sector. Unfortunately, such ordinances are usually in response to numerous complaints or, worse yet, to a preventable tragedy. House Bill 2642 represents a *preventative* effort that could save someone's life, and will help keep wild animals in the wild where they belong. I will stand by your support of this bill.

Sincerely,



David L. Reber

Associate Director, Natural Heritage Center, Inc.  
Past-President, Kansas Herpetological Society

*House Agriculture  
Attachment 3  
2-7-96*





STATE OF KANSAS  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Office of the Secretary  
900 SW Jackson, Suite 502  
Topeka, KS 66612  
913/296-2281 FAX 913/296-6953



H.B. 2642

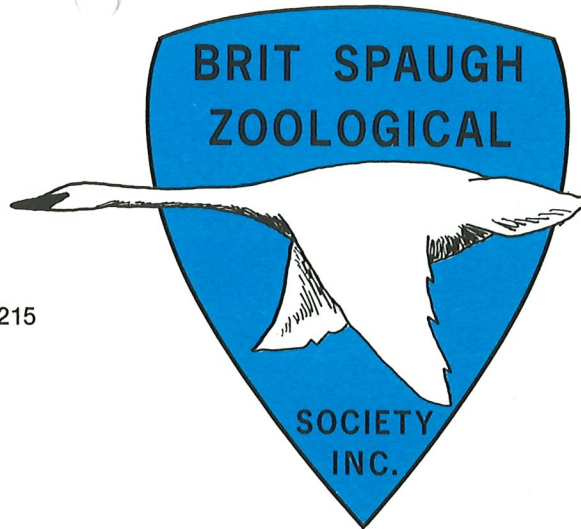
Testimony Presented To: House Agriculture Committee  
Provided By: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks  
February 7, 1996

H.B. 2642 prohibits the importation and/or possession of live venomous snakes and lizards that are not native to Kansas into the state. Academic research, museum research and zoological parks would be exempt. It creates a civil penalty of not less than \$250 nor more than \$1,000 for each violation which may be imposed by the Department. Any person receiving a written order of penalty may appeal the order in accordance with the Kansas Administrative Procedures Act. The Department would be required to destroy or donate any illegally imported or possessed snake or lizard. Any monies received due to a violation would be deposited into the State General Fund.

The Department has not received many complaints of activities that would be a violation under this bill. Other entities may have a better estimate of the amount of importation or possession that occurs. It should be noted that importation and release into the wild of exotic wildlife is prohibited under K.A.R. 115-20-3; however, enforcement is difficult.

This bill requires enforcement by the Department, but through a civil procedure rather than a through a misdemeanor process as are all other Department enforced violations. If the activities described in this bill are to be made illegal, the Department recommends that the penalty be considered as a class C misdemeanor rather than a civil penalty. In addition, the Department recommends that act not be placed in Chapter 32. It should be placed in Chapter 21 so as to be more readily enforceable by any enforcement body. Deposition of fines would be governed accordingly.

*House Agriculture  
Attachment 4  
2-7-96*



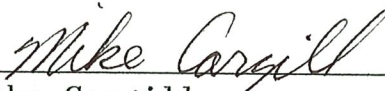
P. O. Box 215

Telephone  
(316) 793-4160

GREAT BEND, KANSAS 67530

On behalf of the 40,000 plus annual visitors of the Brit Spaugh Zoo, a non-accredited zoological park, open to the public daily, operated by the City of Great Bend, I would request that Section I, paragraph a, item 3 and Section I, paragraph f, item 2 be amended from "accredited zoological park" to "zoological park open to the public daily".

We agree that venomous reptiles can present a hazardous situation when in inappropriate hands. However, inserting the word "accredited" will remove the opportunity for our visitors to enhance their educational experience. Venomous reptiles are an important display and educational subject at the Brit Spaugh Zoo. Therefore, please consider amending House Bill 2642 to read "exhibitions by zoological park open to the public daily."

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Cargill  
Director of Public Lands  
City of Great Bend

*House Agriculture  
Attachment 5  
2-7-96*

# SEDGWICK COUNTY ZOO



5555 Zoo Boulevard  
Wichita, KS 67212

Administration  
(316) 942-2212  
FAX (316) 942-3781

Director  
Mark C. Reed

Sedgwick County  
Zoological Society, Inc.

- President  
Barry Schwab
- Trustees  
R. Allan Allford  
Mary Kathleen Babcock  
Andrew L. Blass  
William P. Buchanan  
Rex T. Cleverger  
Tom Cronk  
Larry L. DeBrot  
Kathryn A. Galichin  
Russell K. Gordon  
Edward J. Healy  
Linca Merrill  
Christopher C. Moore  
Keith E. Nadolski  
Ed Ritchie  
Barbara K. Roth  
Norm Ross  
John C. Shawver  
William C. Skaer, D.V.M.  
Robert D. Taylor  
Tom Winters

February 6, 1996

Honorable Representatives,

The Sedgwick County Zoo is in full support of H.B. 2642. The importation of venomous reptiles for hobbyist purposes ensures an unnecessary and a serious threat to the safety of Kansas citizens.

The American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) and the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) have recognized a growing number of exotic snakebites occurring among private collectors (Antivenom Index 1994). There are currently reptile dealers throughout the country from whom any adult can directly purchase a variety of vipers, cobras, and other venomous reptiles.

Snake venoms are very complex. Enzymatic composition and thus toxic properties are very diverse among species. Biological activities of toxins can result in any number of effects including expansive tissue death, anticoagulation, cardiac arrest, coma, and neurological debilitation.

Likewise, treatment of snakebite is problematic. To treat snakebite, correct identification of the species is necessary. Common or vernacular names are often used by hobbyists and may lead the poison control center and/or physician to misidentification.

Given that an identification is made, snake venom antisera (antivenom) will probably need to be administered. Antivenoms are produced for many, but certainly not all, species. They are all considered to be experimental drugs. Antivenoms produced in other countries cannot be imported into the U.S. legally without permission of the Federal government. There are approximately 150 antivenoms produced by 59 institutes in 38 countries. Only a limited number of institutions (i.e. zoos) have the knowledge and authority to release an antivenom for use by a physician. Zoos provide antivenom stocks on a "good samaritan" basis. This availability is very limited and renders the Zoo disabled until restocking can be achieved.

*House Agriculture  
Attachment 6  
2-7-96*



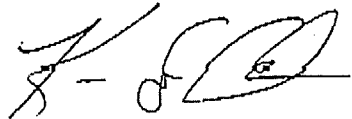
AMERICAN ZOO AND AQUARIAN  
ASSOCIATION

The Sedgwick County Zoo is an  
AZA accredited institution.

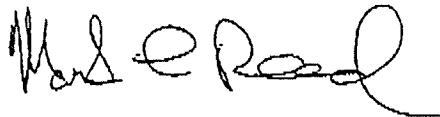
The huge Great Plains Grizzly reigned supreme in this area before the coming of white man. Capable of preying upon full grown bison, this magnificent creature and his fellow plains dweller, the Indian, treated each other with respect. The fearlessness of the bear made him vulnerable to the white man's guns and he was probably the first wild animal to be exterminated in Kansas. We have used his footprint to remind us that he is no more, and that the bear family is an endangered group the world over. The outline of the Sedgwick County Zoo encloses the print to indicate that zoos are often the last refuge that an ever-increasing human population will allow the vanishing wildlife of the world.

We do not wish to overemphasize the danger of venomous snakes. In fact, the risk of snake bite from wild snakes is actually very low. A person in North America is much more likely die from a dog attack, horse accident, or lightning strike than a snake bite. Venomous animals play an important role in the balance of their ecosystems. However, when these animals become pets, daily contact greatly increases opportunities for human error. These are not animals that should be harbored as pets!

Sincerely,



Karen S. Graham  
Curator of Herpetofauna and Fishes



Mark C. Reed  
Director



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All animals sold by us are guaranteed to arrive alive and be completely healthy upon receipt. It is the buyer's responsibility to ensure that the animal is suitable for their intended use. We do not accept returns on live animals. All animals are sold with a 30-day health guarantee. If an animal dies within 30 days of receipt, we will replace it free of charge. This guarantee does not apply to animals that die due to neglect, improper care, or natural causes. We do not accept returns on live animals. All animals are sold with a 30-day health guarantee. If an animal dies within 30 days of receipt, we will replace it free of charge. This guarantee does not apply to animals that die due to neglect, improper care, or natural causes.

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**JUL '94**

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# VENOMOUS

1	EASTERN DIAMONDBACK Crotalus adamanteus, 3' - 3', feeding, 35.00
1	WESTERN DIAMONDBACK Crotalus atrox, 1 small eye, 10.00
1	ALBINO WESTERN DIAMONDBACK Crotalus atrox, 4' male, 900.00 pr. 1' females
1	HAIR BATTLESMAN Crotalus nyo, adults, 133.00
3	RED DIAMOND BATTLESMAN Crotalus ruber ruber, 2' - 3', 95.00
2	KED DIAMOND BATTLESMAN Crotalus f. ruber, 4', longterm, 95.00
1	HAN LINAN KED BLMND BATTLESMAN Crotalus ruber lucanensis, 1' 150.00
2	BLACHTAIL BATTLESMAN Crotalus n. molossus, 1 - 3'; 1 - 4', Exceptionall 4 footer has 16 segments on rattle, 100.00
6	SPECKLED BATTLESMAN Crotalus mitchelli, 3' - 4', feeders, 123.00
1.1	SPECKLED BATTLESMAN Crotalus mitchelli stephensi 250.00 pr.
1	SPECKLED BATTLESMAN Crotalus mitchelli pyrrhus, longterm, 123.00
1.2	CASCAREL Crotalus durissus durissus, 4' male, nice color, 150.00
1	TINKIN BATTLESMAN Crotalus horridus horridus, 3' dark phase, 50.00
1	CANERMAN BATTLESMAN Crotalus h. atrisaudata, longterm 3', 50.00
2	HANDY ROCK BATTLESMAN Crotalus lepidus klanberi, 1 small, 1 large, 150.00
2.0	CAROLINA PIGNY BATTLESMAN Sistrurus m. miliarius 40.00
7	KED PIGNY BATTLESMAN Sistrurus m. miliarius, C.B.'94, beautiful, 150.00
2	DUKEY PIGNY BATTLESMAN Sistrurus miliarius barbouri 35.00
1	DEBENT MASSASOAGA BATTLESMAN Sistrurus ostenatus schweileri 25.00
1	W. MASSASOAGA BATTLESMAN Sistrurus ostenatus terymianus 25.00
3	NORTHERN COPPERHEAD Aqkistrodon contortrix scabrae 20.00
0.1	SOUTHERN COPPERHEAD Aqkistrodon contortrix contortrix 20.00
10	TRANSPECOS COPPERHEAD Aqkistrodon c. pictigaster, 18" - 2', 45.00
2	FLORIDA COTYNOPOUS Aqkistrodon piscivorus oswaldi 15.00
1	UBITO Bothrops alternatus, 18", very nice! 95.00
4	GREEN STEELER VIPER Bothriopsis schlegelii, nice color, 100.00
2	COOMAN'S VIPER Forthidium poonani 150.00
1.1	W. AFRICAN GADGON VIPER Bitis gabonica rhinoceros, babies, 75.00
2.0	CAPE PUFF ADDER Bitis aristata, nice color, 150.00
2	PUFF ADDER Bitis aristata, C.B.'93, Kality, 35.00
4	WHITE-LIPPED PIT VIPER Eriocrodon albolabris, C.B.'94, pinky feeders! 50.00
4	SHIELDBOSS CORBA Aspideleps squalatus, C.B.'93, 75.00
0.1	GREEN HANNA Dendroaspis angusticeps 395.00
1.2	SPECTACLED CORBA Maja n. naja, C.B.'92, light color, super, 125.00
8	SPECTACLED CORBA Maja n. naja, C.B.'93, 75.00
1	MUSCLE CORBA Maja naja koochia, small, vary nice, 75.00
1.0	CYLLINERS SPECTACLED CORBA Maja n. polyocellata, C.B.'92, 125.00
1.0	CHILMERS SPECTACLED CORBA Maja n. polyocellata, 6' +, 175.00
1	CHIRKS CORBA Maja n. atra, C.B.'94, cute, 55.00
1	BLACK AND WHITE SPITTING CORBA Maja n. "tripudiana" C.B.'93, 25.00
1	SHALAND SPITTING CORBA Maja n. isocensis, C.B.'92, 35.00
2	NOBANNON SPITTING CORBA Maja mombasica, 3' - 4', 75.00
6	NOYTIAM CORBA Maja naja, all sizes, 75.00
1.1	HANNED NOYTIAM CORBA Maja naja, C.B.'93, EXCEPTIONAL! 75.00
1.0	CAPE CORBA Maja naja, 4', 150.00
2	CAPE CORBA Maja naja, C.B.'93, growing fast! 100.00
2.2	REXNAL'S CORBA Mesobuthus astochatus, 3' - 4', CLEARANCE SALE!! 75.00
1	EASTERN CRAL Miorurus fulvius fulvius, 2', 20.00
1	MANGROVE SNAKE Boiga dendrophila 75.00
2	AFRICAN SAND SNAKE Psammophis sp. 20.00
1	DEAR SNAKE Rhabdophis erythrinus, unusual, 20.00
1.1	SPECKLED MADAGASCAN BOSSON Lioheterodon geayi 75.00
1.1	GIANT MADAGASCAN BOSSON Lioheterodon madagascariensis, C.B.'94, feeding on pinkies, 45.00
3.2	ALON MADAGASCAN BOSSON Lioheterodon modestus 45.00
1	CENTRAL AMERICH CRY-THED SNAKE Leptodeira sp., eats hoppers, 35.00

6	ROCK'S GIANT DAY GECKO Phelsuma n. rochi 35.00
1.0	BONNET'S GIANT DAY GECKO Phelsuma n. boehmi 35.00
10	GIANT DAY GECKO Phelsuma n. grandis, C.B.'94, 25.00
6	GIANT DAY GECKO Phelsuma n. grandis, adult imports, 25.00
6	BLEH DAY GECKO Phelsuma barbouri 30.00
6	BEOM DAY GECKO Phelsuma kismari, blue & yellow, nice, 95.00
3	SEIPP'S DAY GECKO Phelsuma seippi 45.00
6	YELLOW THROAT DAY GECKO Phelsuma flavigularis 29.00
10	GOLD DUST DAY GECKO Phelsuma laticauda 15.00
8	RED-BACKED DAY GECKO Phelsuma laticauda angularis 20.00
12	LINKED DAY GECKO Phelsuma lineata 15.00
10	PEACOCK DAY GECKO Phelsuma p. quadriocellata 15.00
8	FLAT-TAILED DAY GECKO Phelsuma serricauda 29.00
3	STANDING'S DAY GECKO Phelsuma standingi, C.B.'94, 45.00
7	STANDING'S DAY GECKO Phelsuma standingi, adult, 49.00
3	TOKEY GECKO Gekko gekko 10.00
3	SPOTTED GECKO Gekko petricolus 15.00
4	VIEIHAM GOLDEN GECKO Gekko ulikovskii 20.00
1.0	NATAL MIDLAND DWAFF CHAMELEON Bradypodion thomobates 190.00
0.3	NINOR'S CHAMELEON Chamaeleo minor, C.B.'94, well-started, 75.00
10	VIEILED (CHAMELEON) Chamaeleo calyptratus, C.B.'94, mostly males, which become the big, blue-green & yellow, impressive specimens featured in most photographs, 95.00
0.1	FOUR MONKED CHAMELEON Chamaeleo quadriornus 185.00
4	OUSTALTI'S CHAMELEON Chamaeleo oustaliti, assorted sizes, 75.00
1.1	BLYPHELT EAL CHAMELEON Chamaeleo b. brevicoensis 45.00
6	CHUPIT CHAMELEON Chamaeleo lateralis 35.00
6	HARRY IGUANA Diposaurus dorsalis 45.00
1	DEBENT IGUANA Diposaurus dorsalis, C.B.'94 beauty! 55.00
7	GIANT MALAGASY SPINY TAIL IGUANA Oplurus cyclurus 25.00
6	GIANT MALAGASY SPINY TAIL IGUANA Oplurus ouvieri 25.00
6	SOUTHERN MALAGASY SPINY IGUANA Oplurus fischeri 25.00
8	GREEN IGUANA Iguana iguana, just hatched, Colombian farm-bred, 19.00
1	NICARAGUAN CLUETAIL IGUANA Ctenosaura quinquecarinata 85.00
2	RHINOCEROS IGUANA Cyclura c. cornuta, small, "King of the Iguanas", 750.00
6	WHELTED IGUANA Corytophanes cristatus 25.00
2	CWENHEAD LIZARD Lacanotus longipes, C.B.'94, 35.00
6	CWENHEAD LIZARD Tropidurus peruvianus 5.00
4	SPICEO BASILISK Basiliscus plumifrons, C.B.'94, cute, 75.00
1	YELLOW STRIPED BASILISK Basiliscus vittatus, large, 20.00
3	YELLOW STRIPED BASILISK Basiliscus vittatus, small, 15.00
4	BROWN ANOLE Anolis sagrei 15.00
4	GREEN ANOLE Anolis carolinensis 2.00
8	KNIGHT'S ANOLE Anolis equestris, C.B.'94 or adults, 15.00
11	CWENHEAD ANOLE Anolis cristatellus 5.00
6	SPOTTED LAVA LIZARD Sternocercus melanopygus 15.00
10	NORTHERN CONULIATED LIZARD Leiocephalus carinatus armouri 9.00
2	YELLOW-SPOTTED NIGHT LIZARD Lepidophyma flavipunctata 15.00
1	LEOPARD LIZARD Gambusia wilsenii, stubtail, 15.00
4	FLORIDA SCORP LIZARD Sceloporus woodi 10.00
1	VENEZ LIZARD Sceloporus undulatus 5.00
1.1	RED-NECK ROCK LIZARD AGAMA sapha fusca, very nice, 45.00
3	SIXLY MAMA Psudotrapelus sinaita, adults, 15.00
4	CHALICE Crotalus versicolor 15.00
0.1	STYLED LIZARD Chamaeleon Kingi, adult, 1,000.00
1.1	ARMADILLO LIZARD Corydalis cordylus 95.00
1.1	FRAND SINGLED LIZARD Corydalis polyzona 95.00
4	FLAY ROCK LIZARD Platysaurus intermedius 25.00
2	GREEN WATER DRAGON Physignathus coelestinus, adults, 45.00
2	GREEN WATER DRAGON Physignathus coelestinus, C.B.'94, 35.00
0.1	INDONESIAN CRESTED DRAGON Gonocephalus sp. 50.00
10	IRANDRED DRAGON Pogona vitticeps, C.B.'94 in Europe, 125.00
1.5	DUMMEL'S MONITOR Varanus dumrilli, imperfect nose, 95.00
1.0	DUMMEL'S MONITOR Varanus dumrilli, longterm, 250.00
1	BLACK BOONMORCH MONITOR Varanus rudolfii, 3', 275.00
1	AUSTRIALIAN GOULD'S MONITOR Varanus gouldii, C.B.'93, 1,000.00
6	WEST AFRICAN SAVANNA MONITOR Varanus exanthematicus, babies, 45.00
2	WEST AFRICAN SAVANNA MONITOR Varanus exanthematicus, 3', 85.00
1	IONIDES SAVANNA MONITOR Varanus sibirgularis "ionides", 150.00
3	WILE MONITOR Varanus niloticus, large, 45.00
3	WILE MONITOR Varanus niloticus, babies, 45.00
1	WATER MONITOR Varanus salvator, 4', longterm, nice, 300.00
1	WATER MONITOR Varanus salvator, 3', nice color, 250.00
3	COLOMBIA BLACK & WHITE TONGU Tupia nambis tepuzira, C.B. in Columbia, 65.00
2	MONITOR TONGU Galloptes flavipunctatus, babies, 95.00
30	SPINGLED LACERTA Lacerta lepida, C.B.'94, the giant of the Lacertas, beautiful, 65.00
1.1	GREEN LACERTA Lacerta viridis 35.00

# LIZARDS

# TURTLES

1	ALABAMA GIANT TORTOISE Geochelone giganteus, C.B.'93, 1,895.00
2	STAR TORTOISE Geochelone elegans, C.B.'94, 800.00
2	REDFOOT TORTOISE Chelonia carbonaria, C.B.'94, 125.00
2.1	YELLOWFOOT TORTOISE Chelonia denticulata, adults, 175.00
4	SPRING SPURTED TORTOISE Indotestudo elongata, 4" - 5", 85.00
1.0	AFRICAN SPURTED TORTOISE Geochelone sulcata, 11", 595.00
2.8	LEOPARD TORTOISE Geochelone pardalis babobaki, 6", 165.00
1.1	PASCANE TORTOISE Malacochersus tornieri 295.00
4	GIANT ASIAN WOOD TURTLE Eunocys grandis, 5" - 6", 45.00
6	OWHATE BOX TURTLE Terrapene ornata 25.00
1	SPOTTED TURTLE Clemmys guttata, adult, one eye, 25.00
1	GIANT BLACK WOOD TURTLE Rhinoclemmys zuberi, 5" - 12", 75.00
6	OWHATE WOOD TURTLE Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima wanni, 4" - 6", 35.00
10	ASIAN BOX TURTLE Cuora amboinensis 15.00
1	YELLOW BELLIED SLINGER Trachemys s. scripta, adult, 10.00
4	SHARER SLIDER Trachemys s. albigera, 4", 4.00
4	EASTERN PAINTED TURTLE Chrysemys p. picta, 4" - 6", 10.00
3	SIAMONDACK THERAPIE Malacochersus terrapin, C.B.'94, 45.00
3	MISSISSIPPI MAP TURTLE Cryptemys kohnii, 4", 10.00
1	FLORIDA SHAPPER Chelydra s. tecta, 5", 10.00
1	EASTERN BOX TURTLE Kinosternon s. subrubrum 5.00
7	WEIPEB BOX TURTLE Kinosternon bauri palmarum 5.00
7	WEIPEB BOX TURTLE Kinosternon flavescens 15.00
1	SPRINGBOX MERE TURTLE Sternotherus odoratus 5.00
1	FLORIDA SOUTHERN TURTLE Trionyx ferox, small, 10.00
3	SPECKLED GADGON Caimen crocodylus, babies, 45.00

February 5, 1996

Dear Madame Chairperson and Members of the  
House of Representatives:

As a science/technology teacher in the Hays public school system and the Secretary/Treasurer of the Kansas Herpetological Society as well as the Treasurer for the Society of the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, I have enjoyed taking groups of students on field trips to explore the flora and fauna of western Kansas. These trips have always included observations and lessons on biological adaptation and diversity of our native Kansas amphibian and reptile species.

Over the years I have taught my students that if an animal is removed from its native habitat for temporary observation, that animal must be returned to the exact location of capture for release. From a biological standpoint, if animals are released in an unfamiliar or non-native area, they may succumb to variances in temperature, or ignorance of hiding or hibernating places. They may also suffer from diseases in the release area to which they have no immunity, or be killed by unfamiliar predators.

I was extremely alarmed to read various news accounts of Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes being discovered last fall in Ellsworth County. Since then, there have been anecdotal reports of this species being found in Hodgeman County as well.

This particular species is not native to Kansas and has obviously been introduced by individuals who are not aware of the hazards this action can cause. Non-native venomous reptiles can upset the delicate balance of an eco-system by out-competing the native snakes for food and posing a threat to unsuspecting animals and people. Hospital emergency rooms usually keep anti-venom serum on hand for only known local venomous snakes. While venomous snake bites are a rare occurrence, it would be tragic for a hospital to be faced with the situation of a snake bite victim and the wrong anti-venom available.

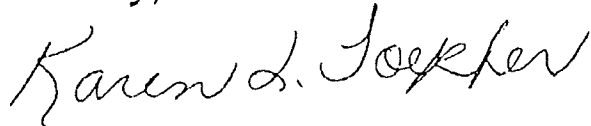
An example of how a non-native snake can disrupt the ecology of a region is the introduction of the Brown Tree Snake to the island of Guam. Over the past decade, this non-native species has wiped out most of the island's native species of birds and small mammals. Biologists are now engaged in an all out effort to eradicate this non-native species from Guam. I'm not suggesting this same scenario with regard to the Diamondback Rattlesnake, only pointing out a possibility.

*House Agriculture  
Attachment 7  
2-7-96*

As Kansas lawmakers, you are now in a position to ensure the continuation and bio-diversity of our native Kansas fauna. As a science teacher and herpetologist, I urge you to vote in favor of House Bill #2642 which would prohibit the importation of live non-native venomous snakes and lizards. Passage of this bill would also prevent unnecessary suffering by non-native venomous snakes and lizards being released in unfamiliar habitat.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Toepfer  
Science Instructor  
Felten Middle School  
101 E. 29th Street  
Hays, Kansas 67601

Secretary/Treasurer, Kansas Herpetological Society  
Treasurer, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles



House Agriculture Committee  
House Bill #2642  
February 7, 1996

Testimony  
Judie Withers  
Sharon Springs, Ks.

Representatives of the House Agriculture Committee:

I am a rancher and a farmer from 350 miles across our state in the northwest corner and am here in opposition of House bill #2642. This bill, if passed, would be a direct problem for the Kansas Rattlesnake Roundup held annually in Sharon Springs as we do import western diamondback rattlesnakes for display and for butchering during our event as well as other species for our educational display. Our unique concept features education of our visitors to the many types of both poisonous and non-poisonous snakes.

In researching the reason for the introduction of this bill, I find it was implied that Lawrence has had a problem with venomous non-native snakes being released. We called and inquired if there had been complaints, but no one was aware of this. The Kansas Herpetological Society has in the past recommended that some or all of our snakes should be released after our event, so if this is in fact a problem in Lawrence, perhaps K.H.S. members are the ones releasing the snakes. This should be a city of Lawrence problem, not a legislative issue.

Legislation for our event has successfully passed through the system step by step. I find it a peculiar coincidence that some members of the Kansas Herpetological Society who have openly opposed the Kansas Rattlesnake Roundup on many occasions are some of the proponents of this bill which is at the very least another complication for our event. These individuals have also convinced the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks that because of their educational background and connection with a secondary educational institution, they are the only authorities on rattlesnakes. These same individuals have bullied the Department of Health and Environment against us and even tried with no avail to create a problem for our event concerning western diamondback rattlesnakes by challenging existing regulations and laws. Mr. Jerry Bump, Kansas Wildlife and Parks area supervisor in Hays, was called upon to interpret our rights one night during the 1994 event. We have made every effort to be informed, cooperative and patient, but we are at a definite disadvantage on new legislative concerns because of our location in Kansas.

*House Agriculture  
Attachment 8  
2-7-96*

At a time when ranchers and farmers are struggling with the drought and the cold may have damaged or destroyed the '96 wheat crop, we are forced to take time away from ranch duties and incur needless expenses to come to Topeka to defend our event. The proponents of this bill are not interested in agricultural problems, but are determined to cause problems for an event created to assist in the economic survival of a rural Kansas community.

I am troubled that our Agriculture Committee is spending time on such an issue when the very existence of the agricultural business in Kansas is under so much pressure. I am angry that these individuals are at it once again, and am extremely disappointed that the Kansas Wildlife and Parks is one of these proponents.

I urge this committee to stop this wasteful misuse of our legislative system.

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE HEARING

FEBRUARY 7, 1996 - 9:00 AM

Statement against House Bill No. 2642

As a representative of the Sharon Springs Rattlesnake Roundup, I am against this bill for the following reasons:

1. We display many live snakes and have educational material available as well as educational lectures. This offers a rare opportunity for people to view snakes native to Kansas as well as other states. Our displays that are educational and which promote a better awareness of the benefits of snakes to our environment would be prevented by this bill.  
Dr. Henry Fitch, who conducts the studies for Wildlife and Parks at the Rattlesnake Roundup, has commented in his report as to the benefits of these live snake displays.
2. This bill is very prejudicial against anyone who is not associated with a university or a zoo (both of which are in short supply in the western part of the state).

If there is a release problem of non native venomous snakes in the Lawrence area, perhaps Wildlife and Parks department could write regulations addressing this problem and that action would be more beneficial over-all instead of one which penalizes the rest of the state.

Sarah Walker  
Committee Chairperson  
Sharon Springs, KS

*House Agriculture  
Attachment 9  
2-7-96*

Legislature of the State of Kansas  
Committee on Agriculture  
House Bill No. 2642  
Testimony by Larry L. Graf

7 February 1996

My name is Larry Graf, my avocation is the study of the larger bodied rattlesnakes. I am currently the Chief Administrative Officer for the National Crotalus Society and publisher of N.C.S. News, the organization's quarterly news paper that covers the subjects of rattlesnakes and Rattlesnake Roundups throughout the United States. We are headquartered in Onaga, Kansas, which is approximately 50 miles northwest of Topeka and we are starting our fourth year of operation.

Originally our idea was to establish a central location where accurate, up-to-date information could be obtained by snake hunters and roundup organizers. However, shortly after getting started, we were pleasantly surprised to discover that our organization and publication was receiving interest from the educational community. We received a call from Robert Henderson, the Director of Animal Damage Control, Kansas State University at Manhattan. Mr. Henderson asked if we would help in putting together a video identifying venomous snakes from non venomous snakes. We agreed and supplied Mr. Henderson with ideas, scientific data, literary references, locations to film and most importantly, most of the venomous snakes shown in the video.

Since the release of the video, and the Society gaining in

*House Agriculture  
Attachment 10  
2-7-96*

notoriety, we are constantly being asked into schools to display both venomous and non venomous snakes and present talks on the subject. Members of our organization have, over the past two years, conducted these displays and lectures (free of charge) all across the state of Kansas. Each such lecture has met with tremendous success, the kids love it and I am convinced that not only the kids, but the teachers as well are coming away from these things with a new respect and understanding of these reptiles.

The problem with House Bill No. 2642 is that it will make this type activity illegal since only colleges, museums and zoos will be able to possess and import venomous snakes. The question then is, "Why penalize those who are doing the right thing?"

It is my understanding that this Bill was drafted because venomous snakes and lizards not native to Kansas are being released in Kansas. If that is the problem, rather than making it illegal to import or possess, I would ask that the Bill be amended to read at line 13 through line 15:

"Section 1. (a) Except as provided further, release into the wild of live venomous snakes and lizards that are not native to Kansas is a violation of state law, which may incur a civil"