

## New opportunity to publish amphibian husbandry articles

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There are currently over 200 captive conservation programs for threatened amphibian species around the world, with hundreds more involving less threatened species, where populations are housed for research, conservation education, or for display. In a lot of cases, species have been brought into captivity for the first time, with almost no knowledge of their specific captive needs, and husbandry protocols have been developed, fine-tuned and then adopted by those managing the captive programs. Unfortunately, often all of the knowledge about those husbandry protocols remains within the institution that developed them, and they are seldom published and shared for the benefit of other amphibian program managers. We are really excited to announce a new opportunity for amphibian husbandry articles to be published in *Herpetology Notes* ([www.biotaxa.org/hn](http://www.biotaxa.org/hn)), an online, open-source journal. All papers published in *Herpetology Notes* are available without charge.

The collaboration with the team at *Herpetology Notes* came about as a result of one of the actions in the Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) Captive Breeding Working Group's Action Plan, to develop an open access, online journal of amphibian husbandry that publishes tips, techniques, advances, etc. as well as short papers on husbandry. This allows the amphibian *ex situ* conservation community to continually share information and experiences with one another and encourages program managers to publish their experiences. *Herpetology Notes* seemed to be a great fit, and working with an established journal saved us from reinventing the wheel. The folks at *Herpetology Notes* welcome this new initiative and are looking forward to seeing some great amphibian husbandry articles in the future.

*Herpetology Notes* is published by the Societas Europaea Herpetologica. Manuscripts are edited and typeset by an international team of editors, and a new, separate team of Associate Editors is being created to focus specifically on reviewing and editing amphibian husbandry articles. A new Husbandry section will be created which will be used for both reptile and amphibian husbandry notes and articles. All submitted papers will need to be



conservation-, zoo-, or science-related, they must be written with a "scientific" tone, and the work needs to conform to all existing publication guidelines for *Herpetology Notes* (see [www.biotaxa.org/hn/about/submissions#authorGuidelines](http://www.biotaxa.org/hn/about/submissions#authorGuidelines)). Manuscripts that do not follow the editorial style will not be considered for publication and will be returned to the authors.

English is the official language for *Herpetology Notes* contributions, but Amphibian *Husbandry Notes* articles can also be submitted in Spanish. The submitted articles would be reviewed and edited in Spanish, and then translated to English, with both versions being published. We hope this will be very beneficial for amphibian program managers in Spanish-speaking countries, where there is a very high concentration of *ex situ* amphibian conservation programs.

*Herpetology Notes* offers an open access forum, which offers relatively fast publication of natural history articles that might not be published in other journals. The addition of the new Husbandry section will provide a great opportunity to share successes (and failures) relating to the development of amphibian husbandry protocols, which in turn will hopefully be of use to other amphibian keepers who are considering working with species with which they are not very familiar. We'd like to encourage all program managers to develop husbandry protocols and guidelines and submit them to *Herpetological Notes*.

A range of species-specific amphibian husbandry guidelines are also available on the Amphibian Ark web site ([www.amphibianark.org/husbandry-documents/](http://www.amphibianark.org/husbandry-documents/)), as well as templates that can be used when writing husbandry guidelines which are not planned for submission to *Herpetology Notes*.

## AArk Newsletter index

The Newsletter page on the Amphibian Ark web site ([www.amphibianark.org/aark-newsletter/](http://www.amphibianark.org/aark-newsletter/)) now contains an index of all articles in previous AArk Newsletters ([www.amphibianark.org/Newsletters/AArk-Newsletter-Index.pdf](http://www.amphibianark.org/Newsletters/AArk-Newsletter-Index.pdf)). So if you are looking for a specific article on amphibian programs, why not search through the index, and click on the links to each Newsletter to read the article.

