

## REPTILE INCUBATION PROCEDURE

*The following recommendations should be regarded as guidance only. Peak Bridge Group or its subsidiaries can accept no responsibility for failure of eggs to hatch successfully, for whatever reason.*

Soft shelled fertile eggs will normally adhere tightly to one another soon after laying. No attempt should be made to separate them. When a female has finished laying, eggs should be transferred to a plastic box with a fitting lid, 50-70% full of moistened vermiculite. The box should contain small ventilation holes to allow fresh air into the box but the holes must not be large enough to allow the hatchlings to escape. Six or eight 3mm (1/8") holes through the lid is recommended.

Vermiculite is available from garden centres etc. Prepare the vermiculite by pouring boiling water over it until saturated. Drain until all the surplus water is gone (this can take up to five minutes) and leave to cool. Place the eggs half buried in the mixture within the pre-heated incubator.

Where a still air incubator is used, such as the Brinsea Hatchmaker or Polyhatch or the Hova-Bator, the box must be positioned so that the thermometer in its clip is clear of the box and free to swivel, or placed on a level surface so that the height of the bulb is at the same height as the centre of the eggs.

When eggs are incubated at too low a temperature the young will tend to be small, undernourished and do badly. If the temperature is too high they risk deformities or death.

### Temperatures and Hatching times

#### **Tortoises**

26 - 34°C (79 - 93°F) for 75-140 days

#### **Lizards**

Temperature affects the ratio of males to females in some species (Leopard Geckos for example): below 28°C (82.5 °F) results in mostly females, above 32°C (90°F) gives mostly males.

<b>Iguanas</b>	28 - 30.5°C (82.5 - 87°F)	for 70 - 90 days
<b>Water Dragons – Basilisks</b>	28 - 30°C (82.5 - 86°F)	for 65 days
<b>Leopard Geckos</b>	26 - 33.3°C (79 - 92°F)	for 42 - 84 days

#### **Snakes**

<b>Corn/Ratsnakes</b>	27 - 30°C (80.5 - 86°F)	for 52 - 56 days
<b>Kingsnakes</b>	28 - 29°C (82.5 - 84°F)	for 56 - 64 days
<b>Milk snakes</b>	28 - 30°C (82.5 - 86°F)	for 56 - 64 days
<b>Pythons</b>	31 - 32°C (88 - 89.5°F)	for 54 - 60 days

In general most reptiles need between 28 - 32°C (82 - 90°F) but there are a few exceptions.