

Study identifies potential welfare concerns for privately kept snakes

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New University of Bristol-led research has highlighted several potential welfare concerns relating to how snakes are kept in private homes including issues with enclosure size, temperature and humidity.

In the study, funded by UFAW, published in *Animal Welfare* and led by Bristol Veterinary School, an online questionnaire was completed by 744 [snake](#) owners worldwide. The questionnaire investigated housing and husbandry practices and snake health and [welfare](#) as measured by clinical signs and behavioral indicators. Associations between clinical signs, behavioral indicators and housing and husbandry aspects were tested for the three most common snake families: Pythonoids, Boids and Colubrids.

The snake owners who completed the [questionnaire](#) were predominantly from the UK (68.8 percent). The study found 54.7 percent of snakes were kept in enclosures shorter in length or height than their body, preventing them from stretching out fully. 10.2 percent of snakes in the UK were kept in enclosures that do not comply with current recommended [guidelines](#) (minimum enclosure length

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