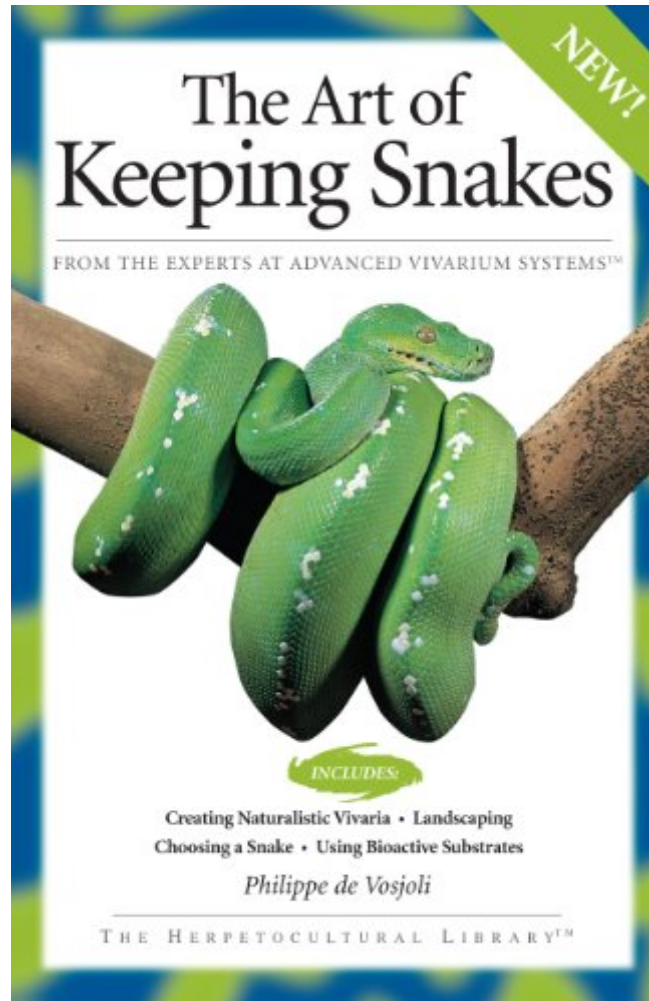


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The Art Of Keeping Snakes (Herpetocultural Library)



Synopsis

For author Philippe de Vosjoli, art is the actualization of a personal vision or message, and de Vosjoli's passion is snakes, which he believes are among the most beautiful animals on earth. Incorporating snakes into a naturalistic vivarium, the way lizards and amphibians usually are, adds a new element to snake keeping, elevating the hobby to a true art form. In *The Art of Keeping Snakes*, de Vosjoli pursues this concept and provides advice for snake keepers who wish to create beautiful displays for their snakes, putting the animals' welfare and quality of life above all else and simultaneously enhancing their own enjoyment in observing their beautiful snakes in naturalistic environments. Beautifully photographed, inspiring, and informative, *The Art of Keeping Snakes* is divided into two parts, the first, *A New Way to Keep Snakes*, discusses design planning, enclosures and background possibilities, substrates, landscaping, plants, heating/lighting, quarantine and introducing the snakes to the vivarium. This part also includes chapters on feeding, handling, health care, and general maintenance and husbandry. The second part, *Best Display Snakes*, presents over thirty different snakes, including photographs, physical descriptions, and tips for selection, handling, vivarium design tips, feeding, and breeding. The snakes in this part are divided into chapters, categorized by pythons, boas, water and garter snakes, hognose snakes, rat snakes, kingsnakes and milksnakes, and others. Resources and index included.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is different in its approach than any other care book I've seen. The author argues for, and shows how to do, quasi-natural to naturalist setups for many common serpents. The difference is that most books do not touch natural vivaria for snakes. There has been some recognition of their benefits with lizards and amphibians, but little to no discussion of their role in snake husbandry. The book covers the basics of setting up different types of vivaria--i.e. desert and tropic, etc. and lists some plants, and substrate mixes that are suitable. He then goes into some particular snakes he feels are well suited for this sort of display. This means the book focuses on small through midsized, diurnal snakes, as they are the best display animals in a natural set up. This excludes many common species, but includes many species equally suited to a beginner--some of which are actually more suited than many more popular species, and hey, it opens up new ideas. These setups, in my experience (I've been doing them for several years) make keeping snakes much more rewarding. I've tried the LAM method (sterile boxes, wood shavings, and a heat source) and it's not that much fun. It has its place, but it should emphatically not be the approach employed by the average hobbyist. Allowing snakes a fairly large cage, with structures and possibly plants, appropriate to its size and behavior, greatly enhances their captive behavior. A boa constrictor can just sit in a 4X2X1 foot cage all day, with little to do, and live. Or, you can put it in a 4X2X3 cage with thick branches, places to explore, etc. and have a much more interesting captive.

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