

# IGUANA SMUGGLING

*A sign of the times — we hope not...*

Reptiles Magazine, Fancy Publications new herp magazine, featured a story on rock iguanas in the 4th issue. Although we were happy to see the interest in iguanas. The cover photograph and the photo on page 60-61 featured recently smuggled San Salvador rock iguanas, *Cyclura rileyi*. These critically endangered iguanas are in very serious trouble and in danger of extinction in the near future. We were saddened to see contraband iguanas featured on a national pet trade magazine. USFWS have questioned the photographer and what action takes place remains to be seen.

## RHINO IGUANAS SMUGGLED

IIS has received many reports of recent large shipments of smuggled Rhino Iguanas, *Cyclura cornuta*. The first shipments entered New York and recent shipments through Miami are being distributed to reptile dealers throughout the U.S. Taking advantage of turmoil in Haiti, unscrupulous smugglers are decimating some of the last populations of iguanas in a country that has already lost most of its iguanas in recent history.

These events also will lead to a loss of rights of herpetoculturists to own animals if it continues.

The shipments of smuggled rhino iguanas contain animals of all sizes. Many animals are in poor condition.

We urge IIS members to not buy any questionable iguanas and report obvious violations to your local office of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

IIS Editors

