

NEED A HOME FOR AN UNWANTED IGUANA?

Update on Iguana Rescue of Central Florida

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As of July 1993, Iguana Rescue of Central Florida is pleased to report that approximately 130 iguanas have been rescued since the organization was formed in 1991. The survival rate of rescued iguanas—despite many arriving in poor condition—holds steady at about 90%. Janet Truse, who truly is the heart of the group, fields in excess of 300 calls a year from people seeking information. Although a good number of the calls are local, many are received from throughout the U.S. and some have even come from England. Iguana Rescue offers approximately 15 presentations annually for local groups interested in all aspects of iguana biology, and during these roughly 4,000 iguana care sheets and IIS applications have been distributed. As a result, dozens of new members have joined IIS—including four individuals that became acquainted with the Society during a garage sale at Janet's home.

When inquiries arrive, our first priority is always to share information and help people KEEP their iguanas. But, when that option is no longer realistic, we're glad to offer the animal to an informed and caring individual. The Rescue group continues to require IIS membership for anyone interested in adopting a rescued iguana, and some have joined IIS motivated largely by the hope of obtaining such an animal. Most of the rescued iguanas are small, but many of them are adults in need of a caring home. Seventy percent or more of the lizards happen to be males. The iguanas arrive from as far away as New York: last year the New York Herpetological Society shipped six homeless iguanas, and we expect a shipment of eight more to arrive in the near future.

Iguana Rescue has operated and will continue to do so by means of unpaid volunteers. Nevertheless, there are many expenses associated with our work. Recently, we have taken steps to incorporate, which should make it easier to solicit

it much needed funding for our efforts. We would like to encourage IIS members in other parts of the U.S. (and in other countries) to form rescue groups of their own. For those interested, our assistance and paperwork are readily available upon request.

Please make every effort to get out amongst the public and express your interest and concern for these majestic creatures that fascinate so many people. Let's show the children how to cherish these animals, and how to treat them properly. Hopefully, the next generation and the iguanas they live with will benefit from what we communicate today, and from what we can add to our knowledge base in the future. We are confident that our efforts—and those of many others—will make these goals attainable.

Many thanks are due to Janet and Dennis Truse, Deborah Neufeld, Sandra Hart, Lori Hurd, Marlene Lash, Johnnie and Charlene Bruce, Mike Worwetz, Carl and Janet Fuhri, Joe Wasilewski, Robert and Marcie Ehrig, Eric Beers, and so many others for their rescue efforts and assistance. The iguanas deserve the best that we can offer them.

Telephone numbers for Iguana Rescue of Central Florida:

- Janet and Dennis Truse:
(407) 957-5633
- Deborah Neufeld and Sandra Hart:
(407) 847-0725

Iguana Times is pleased to feature the activities of any organization that contributes to the well-being of iguanas.

