

IGUANA NEWSBRIEFS

West Coast Animal Exhibits

The I.I.S. was represented at two herpetological exhibits recently. Over 2,000 people attended the 10th Annual Live Amphibian and Reptile Exhibit sponsored by the Southwestern Herpetologists Society at Weddington Park North in North Hollywood, CA, on October 26-27, 1991. About 150 I.I.S. applications were distributed and several new members were signed up at the show. Dan Byrd and David Blair manned the I.I.S. table at this event.

Also, the San Diego Herpetological Society had its Fourth Annual Amphibian and Reptile Exhibition and Sale on November 9-10, 1991, at the Del Mar Fair Grounds in Del Mar, CA. Almost 4,000 people attended and over 200 I.I.S. applications were distributed. David Blair manned the I.I.S. table at this event.

Programs on *Cyclura*

David Blair, I.I.S. Vice President, presented a talk to the San Diego Herpetological Society on the Cayman Island iguanas at the Fall 1991 meeting of the society. A second, expanded talk on the entire genus *Cyclura* was given on January 22, 1992, to the same group. Both talks were attended by about 100 members of SDHS. A display and/or applications for I.I.S. were present at each meeting.

Jamaican Update

It was reported last issue that the Jamaican Iguana Research Group, under the direction of Dr. Peter Vogel of the University of West Indies, Kingston, had removed a clutch of sixteen eggs from a nesting site in the Hellshire Hills. Eleven hatchlings from this clutch are now being reared at the Hope Zoo in Mona Heights, Kingston. An additional nineteen hatchlings, collected as they were emerging from two other nests, are also being reared at the facility. If rearing efforts are successful, these thirty *Cyclura collei* will substantially increase the total population of this highly endangered species (see *Iguana Times* Vol. 1, no. 1).

Salmonella Warnings

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, GA, is advising people to wash their hands after handling pet iguanas. The CDC said that the bacterial infections in two human infants were traced back to pet iguanas kept by the families. "Persons in contact with iguanas should practice strict hand-washing . . . particularly in households with infants or elderly persons who may be highly susceptible to infection," the CDC said.

Salmonella thrives in an aquatic environment, but the bacteria can survive for a considerable period outside the host or in relatively dry conditions. Several hundred serotypes of *Salmonella* are known, and these bacteria have been isolated from a wide variety of reptile hosts including snakes, lizards, turtles, tortoises, and crocodilians. *Salmonella* from reptiles (compared with strains from birds) produces a more virulent infection in humans and it is difficult to treat. Careful hygiene is the best defense against the risk of infection.

Cover Photo: *Cyclura nubila* hatchling in 1992 Ron Harrod photo.

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