

BUILDING AN EXOTICS CASELOAD IN PRACTICE

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Many veterinary students are now keen in pursuing a career in exotics. This presentation will consider ways to build up an exotics caseload in general practice. Ideally, if you are the only vet in the practice with an interest in exotics then appropriate post graduate education in this field is strongly encouraged before offering an exotics service. Additional experience such as seeing practice in exotics practices, volunteering at bird of prey centres and volunteering at local exotics rescue centres all helps to gain confidence in handling and examining these animals

To build up an exotics caseload in an existing small animal practice it is essential to have the approval of the management and Directors. The extent of additional equipment varies but at the very least additional cages, a small exotics ward (away from cats and dogs), additional food and critical care formulas are required. Additional surgical, dental and anaesthetic equipment designed for exotics will also be required. Out of hours services must be considered, either it is provided by vets at the practice or by an out of hour provider happy to see exotic pets.

Ways to build up an exotic caseload over time include advertising, attending local reptile groups and volunteering in your own time.