



# DEPOSIT BASINS

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## Introduction

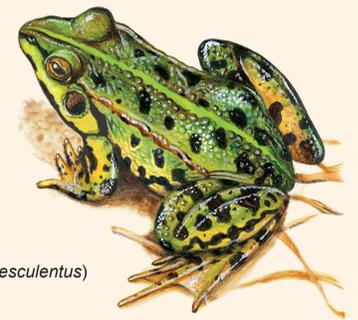
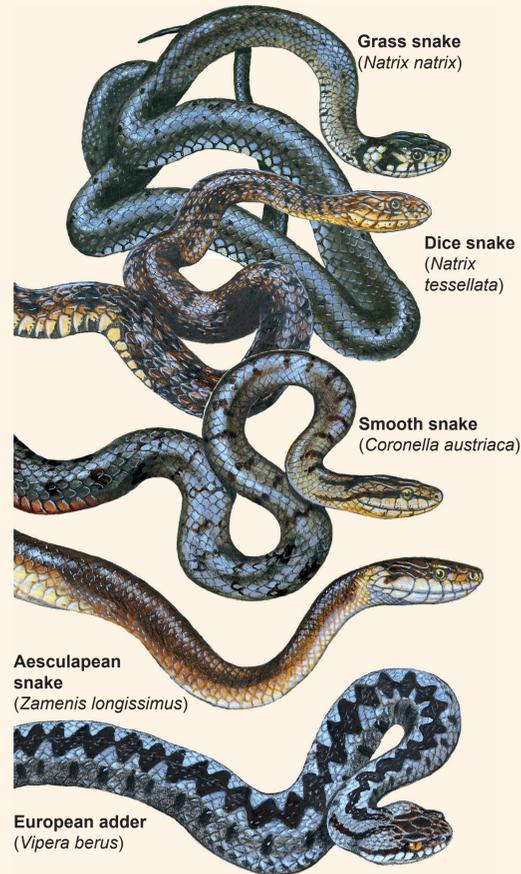
NaturaServis s.r.o. has developed deposit basins for temporary keeping of amphibians, reptiles and other animals (e.g. crayfish and bivalves) living in nature in the Czech Republic, but under direct threat from unfavourable biological impacts (e.g. parasitism, epidemics) or human activities (e.g. railroad and motorway development and maintenance, urban and industrial development, mine and quarry expansion).



## Use of deposit basins

We are able successfully to capture adult individuals as well as specimens at all development stages at endangered localities. Thereafter, we keep them in deposit basins with simulated optimal conditions for continuous care and upkeep. We place great importance on genetic cleanliness and maintenance of natural feeding habits of individual species, helping us to ensure their successful reproduction.

Deposit basins are used especially in cases of unexpected events, such as devastation or degradation of natural habitat or the risk of such incident. They also can be used successfully to protect populations from the spread of epidemics (e.g. crayfish plague, chytridiomycosis). Along with animal conservation in deposit basins, we aim to eliminate impacts endangering original habitats with the objective of releasing kept animals back to their natural environment. If the damage is irreversible, however, we keep the endangered animals in the deposit basins until we are able to release them to a new suitable biotope in cooperation with nature conservation authorities. Sometimes animals are kept only a short time, while in other cases they may be kept for a number of years.



Edible frog  
(*Pelophylax esculentus*)



Fire salamander  
(*Salamandra salamandra*)

while allowing free passage of insects (providing a natural supplement to their feeding). Another adequate barrier against animal escape is a bottom covered by a strong, impermeable foil.

All vegetation is placed in mobile containers or floats. This allows easy upkeep and management of facilities. When needed, a facility may easily be drained, the animals caught, and the area cleaned and sanitized before next use. If required, pumps, filters and other equipment may be installed. The temperature, pH, oxygen content and conductivity inside facilities are constantly monitored. The same measurements are made in original habitats as well so that we may adjust the monitored values to match natural conditions. Natural light and temperature are maintained in the facilities, and the proportion of water and terrestrial environment may be adjusted. All kept amphibians are tested for the fungal disease chytridiomycosis.

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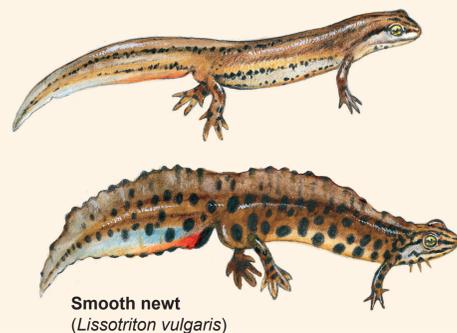


## Location of deposit basins

The Herpetological Station in Hradec Králové (Czech Republic) houses more than 70 deposit basins, enabling the rearing of a large quantity of animals. In the various types of deposit basins, we are able to simulate natural conditions suitable for different animal species and thereby facilitate their survival and reproduction.

## Technical description and function

Deposit basins are outdoor technical facilities of varying size and structure suitable for keeping amphibians, reptiles and other small animals, such as molluscs and crustaceans. Special fences on these facilities ensure that kept animals cannot escape and, at the same time, that local species cannot get inside. Netting protects against predator attacks



Smooth newt  
(*Lissotriton vulgaris*)

