

www.USARK.org

**Fight for your
pets with the
Reptile Defense
Fund!**



UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF REPTILE KEEPERS

The United States Association of Reptile Keepers (USARK) is a science, education and conservation-based advocacy for the responsible private ownership of and trade in reptiles and amphibians (collectively known as herps). The health of these animals, public safety, and maintaining ecological integrity are our primary concerns. USARK is the largest, most well-funded, pro reptile-keeping organization in the history of U.S. herpetoculture. Learn more at www.USARK.org.

1) Reptile Defense Fund and Federal Lawsuit: USARK has been actively engaged in executing an aggressive legislative strategy and building a legal framework to mount a challenge to defend and protect your rights. USARK is the pre-eminent voice of the herp community in Washington D.C. and we are asking everyone to contribute as this campaign will affect our entire community. Anti-pet groups are exactly that. They are not “anti-big snake groups.” They are fighting to remove all reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates from American households and the herp, exotic and pet communities should be concerned. As an established trade organization, USARK is the best advocacy and representation for this battle. We are represented by Kelley Drye, the foremost animal-related law firm in the country.

In December of 2013, USARK filed suit in the U.S. Federal Court against the U.S. Department of the Interior, challenging the Lacey Act listing of four species of constrictor snakes as “injurious.” This was a powerful day for the Reptile Nation, as we fight to protect your rights to pursue your passion and defend your businesses against unwarranted and unnecessary government intrusion. Actions speak louder than words and USARK is committed to seeing this fight through to victory. We must fight this battle to halt continued overreaching legislation on the entire herp community. This fight concerns much more than big snakes. We greatly appreciate your support. Donate to the Reptile Defense Fund at www.USARK.org.

2) State/Local legislation - Mobilizing the Grassroots: USARK is committed to working at the grassroots level to ensure that our voices are heard by reaching out to major herp stakeholders in each state and setting up *USARK Stakeholder Ambassadors* to help fight anti-herp legislation locally. We can make a difference. USARK offers expertise and support in fighting anti-herpetoculture legislation. USARK battled dozens of city, county and state-level issues in 2013.

3) EDUCATION: We need to be proactive in this area to show that we are a responsible industry. The USARK Facebook page is continually updated with scientific and pet-related herp information. Please like and share our Facebook page and enjoy learning more about herps at www.facebook.com/UnitedStatesAssociationOfReptileKeepers.

4) USARK & NRAAC: In 2012, the NRAAC (National Reptile and Amphibian Advisory Council) organized the first annual Reptile and Amphibian Law Symposium & Workshop. This event brought together major stakeholders from the herp industry with lawmakers and government officials that play a key role in herp-related legislation. NRAAC serves as a vehicle to bring together people and organizations to discuss important issues. USARK fully supports the efforts of the NRAAC and we look forward to working closely with them for their 2014 symposium. Learn more at www.NRAAC.org.

5) USARK & PIJAC: USARK is committed to a working relationship with PIJAC (Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council) on issues concerning the entire pet community. This is an important connection for the reptile industry and for USARK stakeholders. PIJAC is an established organization dealing with anti-pet legislation and USARK will partner with them and make the entire American pet community stronger.

USARK BUDGET: In order to operate effectively, we need to raise at least \$500,000 annually. This will allow USARK to fund important scientific studies, protect your rights against anti-pet groups, pay expensive legal fees in the fight against anti-herp legislation and amend overreaching laws already in place throughout the U.S.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! If you have not renewed your membership or have not yet joined, please visit the USARK website to do so at www.USARK.org. You can also donate directly to the USARK Reptile Defense Fund. You are a stakeholder and each member is very important to USARK. It is your membership that enables USARK to protect our rights to keep reptiles and amphibians in captivity! Thank you for supporting the herp community!