

## Reptilomanija+

Reptilomanija+ is the largest project of the Association of Veterinary Medicine Students "EQUUS" which includes an annual exhibition of the same name of reptiles, amphibians and other exotics at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb. The exhibition is organized by the students themselves with the support of faculty staff as a nonprofit and educational.

The first concept of "Reptilomanija+" was made in 2012 with the desire to acquaint the public with the basics of keeping amphibians and reptiles as pets, as well as popularizing them overall. Over the years, the content of the exhibition has spread out to other exotics as well, and as such, insects, arachnids, scorpions, etc. can also be found in the exhibition. In addition to faculty support, various exotic companies and organizations have become involved in organizing the exhibition over the years and have supported the project through sponsorship.

Aside from education, the exhibition also aims to destigmatize exotics as pets and as patients in practice, and to educate professionals (veterinarians, veterinary technicians, practitioners, etc.) on a variety of different treatment methods and approaches. As for the exhibited animals, they are partially owned by the faculty and faculty staff, partially by student volunteers, and partially owned by investors and sponsors.

To emphasize the project's importance and relevance, we would like to mention that this year will be the eleventh year that the project has successfully been done. Last year was the tenth anniversary of the project, in which alongside the exhibition the volunteers created a timeline showing the development of the exhibition from the first conceptual notes of the first organizers, the first edition of the project, the first organized lectures, winning the Rector's award, the first held online version of the exhibition to the last held exhibition. The longevity of such a project is a very good indicator of its quality and of the very good mutual cooperation between Faculty staff and students, because without the will and effort of the students and the continuous support of the faculty staff, Reptilomania would not have reached such a high level of quality.

The project, and together with it the exhibition, through the years of existence has left a significant impact, on the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, both through media exposure and through its educational character. The exhibition is covered every year by many media and journalists, and as such, the exhibition has achieved the status of a brand of the FVMUZ due to its popularity. It continues to be one of the important vectors of education about reptiles and amphibians. Given the exponential growth of visitors and content over the years, it can be said that, each year, student-organizers are getting closer to their goal of normalization and general education of both professionals and general citizens about reptiles and amphibians and how to care for them. In addition to the growing interest of citizens, the interest of students of the FVMUZ for specialization and further education in professional terms regarding exotic animals, their anatomy, physiology, breeding, care, and treatment is growing.

We are pleased to notify you that this year's Reptilomanija+ will be held from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2024, with the grand opening being on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00 at the Faculty of Veterinary medicine of the University of Zagreb. We hope we'll see you at the most exotic event in Zagreb!









