

2026 JUNIOR FAIR REPTILE RULES & SHOW GUIDELINES

1. All animal registrations are due to the OSUE-Trumbull Office by April 1st annually. All animals exhibited at the Trumbull County Fair must be accounted for. Special permission for educational displays/additional animals must be approved by the Trumbull County Sr. Fair Board. Approval will be provided on a case-by-case basis and if room for display/animal is available.
2. First year reptile/amphibian/arthropod/exotic animal members are limited to exhibiting one project at fair. Members with two or more years can bring two projects to the fair for exhibition.
3. Reptiles (lizards, turtles, snakes, etc.); amphibians (salamanders, newts, frogs, etc.) and arthropods (with the exclusion of spiders and scorpions) may be entered.
4. Youth exhibitors can enter and show ALL their reptiles, amphibians and arthropods according to breed and appearances of their tank/cages.
5. Youth members must follow all rules for exhibiting reptiles at the Trumbull County Fair.
6. Youth members must provide their own secure enclosures with proper ventilation. Members must also provide water and food containers.
7. Members must make sure all tank tops can be secured. Secure latches or locks should be on all doors. If the enclosure is locked, make sure someone is available with a key, in case of emergency. No heavy objects on top or ripped/damaged enclosures are permitted.
8. Rodents used as food can only be given to the animals after 8:00 pm. It is also suggested to feed prior to moving animals into the fairgrounds (i.e. snakes).
9. Space may be limited. If it is possible, please display reptiles in smaller tanks for fair.
10. Electrical connections for lights and heating units will be provided, but members must provide their own extension cords and surge bars.
11. All animals must arrive at the Trumbull County Fairgrounds no later than 10:00 pm on Monday of Fair Week. Release time is 8:00 pm on Sunday.
12. All animals entered and exhibited must be in good health. This includes having no signs of ticks or mites. Animals will be evaluated and approved by designated fair veterinarian.
13. If your reptile becomes ill, is injured or dies prior to fair, the reptile advisors should be notified so the situation can be evaluated. If time allows, the family may be able to bring a substitution and will need to fill out a animal exception form to turn into the Sr.

Fair Office.

14. Animals are not permitted to be taken out of their enclosures by anyone other than their owner or by an advisor.
15. Animals shall not be taken outside of the reptile area/barn.
16. Members must wash/disinfect hands before and after handling any animal.
17. An adult must always be in the barn/reptile area if it is unlocked/open to the public. (This adult may be a member who is at least 18, a member's parent or an advisor.) The adult must be observant of all people who enter the reptile barn/area and make sure they do not interfere or tamper with any enclosure.
18. Any animal that can be injured by handling is to remain in their enclosure at all times during their time at the fair.
19. Volunteers and parents/guardians are reminded to act ethically, respectfully, and professionally in all settings. Volunteers and parents/guardians are held to the Jr. Fair Code of Conduct and Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct. Concerns should be documented and discussed with the Jr. Fair Coordinator(s) and the OSUE-Trumbull Office. A written statement of the incident needs to be submitted as soon as possible to the Sr. Fair Board and OSUE-Trumbull Office. These authorities are responsible for documentation, investigation and determining proper action in coordination with Junior and Senior Fair Boards and Committees.
20. Zero Tolerance Bullying Policy. Bullying, harassment, intimidation or exclusion of any kind by volunteers, parents or children will not be tolerated. Any action involving the above should be reported to a club advisor immediately. If this occurs, please follow reporting procedures as noted above in rule 18.

Reptile/Amphibian/Arthropods & Other Exotics Show:

1. Exhibitors will be judged upon their knowledge of their reptile, appearance of cage/tank, and the completion of questions with the show's judge.
2. Exhibitors must know the 4-H pledge.
3. A poster on any one of the exhibitor's reptiles will be counted as points for this judging. This poster should include basic information about the reptile, amphibian, arthropod, etc.
4. Places 1st-5th will be awarded.
5. Best of Show (Novice, Junior, Intermediate and Senior) will be awarded.
6. Other special awards may be given including but not limited to Best Enclosure/Habitat, Most Knowledgeable Keeper and Best Educational Ambassador.
7. Members must complete a new project and poster each year. The information on the poster must be updated and pertain to the project of the given year.

8. Judging will be completed within the barn/space on a table or designated judging area. Spectators are allowed to watch the judging, as so long as they do not interfere in or assist the child while being judged.

Updated February 2026