

CHILDREN'S WORLD PETS

On 20 February 2017, Croatia issued a sheet of eight 3.10k stamps containing two each of four designs depicting terrarium pets.

The stamps feature four whimsical depictions of reptiles commonly kept as pets. They were designed by Lidija Novosel and Adam Peter Maguire from Zagreb.

Agencija za Komercijalnu Djelatnost d.o.o. (AKD) of Zagreb printed the stamps using offset lithography. Around the margin of the sheet are stylized images of these animals.

The Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) is shown laying in a hammock on a beach wearing a set of headphones as it listens to a portable radio.

The iguana is an arboreal lizard native to Central and South America and the Caribbean. It can grow to more than five feet in length. Despite its name, it can come in blue, lavender, black, and even pink colors.

It makes a good pet due to its calm disposition and bright colors, but it can be demanding to care for properly. It requires adequate space and special lighting and heat.

The Milk Snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*) is depicted with a pair of stockings that display the same color pattern as the snake. This pattern apparently has it confused because it appears to be attracted to the stockings.

It is a species of king snake with as many as 24 subspecies. They can grow up to 60 inches long. Their alternating red-black-yellow pattern closely mimics the highly poisonous coral snake. A common mnemonic used to distinguish between the two is: "Red touches black, you're OK jack. Red touches yellow, you're a dead fellow."

An entirely false myth that these snakes suck milk from cows results in their name. They do not have the physical capability to do this. They are found frequently around barns where they make use of the dark environment and access to rodent populations. This probably gave rise to the myth.

The Veiled Chameleon (*Chamaeleo calyptratus*) is shown blending into a cardboard box. This lizard is native to the Arabian Peninsula. It is the most common chameleon in the pet trade and survives well in captivity. It can grow to a length of two feet and eats both insects and plants. Both sexes have a casque on the head.

The Common Musk Turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*) is depicted taking a plunge from a high diving board.

This turtle is native to southeastern Canada and the eastern United States. Its name comes from the fact that it can release a foul musky odor from scent glands on the edge of its shell, possibly to deter predators. They can grow to more than five inches in length. Their smaller size make them a good choice for pets.

They are almost entirely aquatic, typically only venturing on land to lay eggs, or sometimes to bask. They feed on aquatic invertebrates and insects. They have long necks and their heads can extend as far as their hind feet.

