

Subject: BCRC Reptile Expo (Sept 2016)

From: "Keepers@EXOTICSERPENTS.com" <keepers@exoticserpents.com>

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To: undisclosed-recipients: ;

BCC: serpents@exoticserpents.com

Dear BCRC Vendors,

My name is David Chan owner of Exotic Serpents, breeders of ball pythons, blood pythons and boa constrictors. My wife, Norma and I have been involved with the business for going on 22 years. Over the years, I have advocated for the reptile industry in B.C. and was involved in fighting the Minister of Environment (MOE) of BC in the ban of boa constrictors. I have been involved with educating the MOE and others about our industry and had proven to them that this a very viable and growing industry. I have advocated for those who were having problems with bylaw officers and others who have been charged by the law. I have also taken the time to teach or mentor others into this great hobby.

The purpose of writing to you is to let you know that I have been asked by some breeders to take over the BCRC or to start up promoting our own shows. I have always said that I would be interested in doing so only if the issues that seem to be happening within the reptile club continue to harm the industry. I have tried to work in the background without stepping on the toes of the board of directors of the BC Reptile Club as they are the main reason that we have these reptile expos.

As mentioned, I have been doing this for over 20 years now and I have seen many directors change over time, but it seems that there is always some sort of politics and bickering that goes on. This needs to stop.

This past weekend we attended the Abbotsford Reptile Expo and noticed that there were quite a few cancellations and many empty tables. This does not bode well for the reptile industry in BC. I had spoken to many of the vendors and realize that there are many deep issues, behind the scene with the BC Reptile Club's board of directors that needs to be rectified before we can have a healthy reptile industry, where we can promote this great hobby/industry to the public.

After speaking with some of the vendors that were there, I had made the decision right there and then to decide to go ahead with doing our own reptile shows. By the end of the show, I was approached by the president and vice president of the BCRC to speak with them privately about the issues that were going on. I told them that, it's not my intention to compete with the BCRC for doing reptile expos, as they are a non-profit organization where they are suppose to be there to promote a healthy and positive environment for the hobbyists and breeders to promote our products for sale and education.

The mandate of the BCRC is there, but somehow it has run amuck with all the issues that seem to be happening. I have been invited to a meeting near the end of October 2016, to go over some of the issues that is constantly happening which is destroying all the good work of Chris Richardson and others from the past. Don't get me wrong, there were issues when Chris ran the shows, but the main issue is that there are signs that this whole reptile show is going to the way of the dinosaurs.

For those vendors who choose to walk away and not come to the shows, this is no way to fix a problem. If there is a problem let me know and I will present them to the board. They now know that I am serious about putting on a show if the changes does not occur.

I am hoping that we can get some good conversation going to help grow the BCRC into the type of club it was projected to be.

One thing that everyone needs to understand is that if I go ahead and put on the show at the same location in Abbotsford, is that the cost of putting on the show will almost quadruple in cost as I would not be qualified under the non-profit organization status. Therefore the tables could possibly triple in cost for the vendors and I would need corporate sponsors to step in to try to keep the costs down so that all hobbyists and vendors can afford to do

the show.

If we want the shows to continue whereby everyone can afford to come and vend without risking too much money to do so, this is the perfect venue for all to participate in. If you look at the Toronto reptile expo, the cost for a table is around \$450.00 each. Not the kind of cost that a newbie can afford to take a chance on. For me to vend at the Toronto reptile show, it would cost me in excess of \$12,000.00 just to get there and pay all expenses.

We have what I believe is a diamond in the rough within the BCRC, if it is run correctly. I am appealing to you all to send me any suggestions or complaints so that I can address the issues that seems to be plaguing the club. To sit back and not do anything is not an option, if you wish to grow the industry. I know how hard it was for us to start our business when there were no shows. These shows do really help to promote your business, gain clients and connections.

If we don't take action now, I firmly believe that we may have seen the last show the BCRC will be able to put on.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message and I hope that you take action to help me make this a better club going forward. Please send all comments by no later than October 15th, 2016.

Best Regards,



David Chan
Exotic Serpents

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