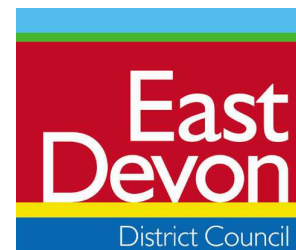




INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



# News Service

**17 August 2007**

EXPO COULD HAVE GONE AHEAD IF NO ANIMALS WERE SOLD

## **Council did not force closure of reptile show**

EAST Devon District Council today moved fast to counter claims that its officers had forced the cancellation of the Exeter Reptile Expo 2007.

A Council spokesman said: "At no time did we seek to ban the show. We simply made it clear to the event organisers that reptiles and other animals should not be offered for sale, as this could breach Section 2 of the Pet Animals Act 1951.

"The Act seeks to ensure that animals are bought and sold only in humane and regulated conditions. The organisers of Expo 2007 were advised that the show **could** go ahead if the animals were exhibited but not sold".

### **Event moved from Exeter**

The event had been moved from its original venue in Exeter and was to have been staged at the Rolle Campus in Exmouth on Saturday 18 August.

The show's organisers did not notify the Council that the event was to take place, but Environmental Health Officers learned late on Tuesday 14 August from Exeter City Council that the South Western Reptilian Society were intending to hold a reptile show at Rolle College.

It was clear from advertising on their website that reptiles and other animals were to be offered for sale at the event.

### **Liable to prosecution**

The Council took a view that vendors at the show could expose themselves to prosecution under the Pet Animals Act 1951. We advised the organiser that if the event was to be staged, live animals must only be exhibited and no sales should take place.

Both the expo organisers and the owners of the venue were advised of EDDC's view by early morning on Thursday 16 August. They were also advised that officers of the council were likely to attend the event to ensure no illegal sales took place.

The Government intends to legislate to further regulate pet fairs in the interests of animal welfare. Until that happens, Councils work with the powers available in existing legislation.

**Ends**

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