

# Sam Bishop - Wildlife A.R.C.

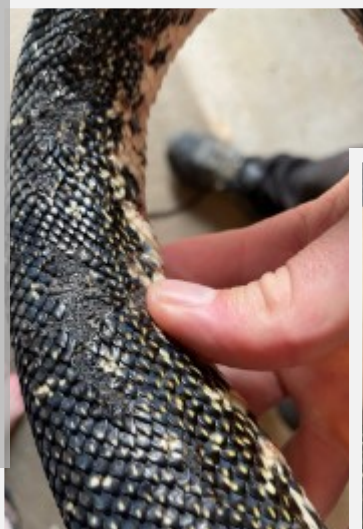


The grant enabled me to purchase a large vivarium for reptiles. The timing was perfect as a diamond python had come into care on the 27/8/22 with a parasite burden. We were expecting his stay to be short term but not long after he started to shed. The shed was very messy, and sloughing skin appeared stuck in certain areas of his body. The shed was also dry and crackly in certain areas, so I began to give him regular soaks to soften the shed and help with its removal.

As this shed was removed, burns became visible down one side of his body, believed to be caused by wrapping himself around a hot bulb. We also think he is blind in one eye, possibly due to burns. Although the burns were healing, they were quite deep in places, and recovery is going to take a long time. The vivarium enables the python to obtain the UV light and heat he requires, as well as giving him the space to move about so that thermoregulation can occur. The vivarium construction also helps to keep the area clean and sterile, reducing the risk of infection.

I would like to thank NWC for giving me the opportunity to purchase the vivarium, enabling me to keep this diamond python, as well as many other reptiles in the future, in the necessary environment for recovery and release back into the wild.

*Sam Bishop*



*These pictures illustrate the skin shedding process and healing of burns from the animal's intake through to a complete healing and shedding to enable a successful release back to the wild.*