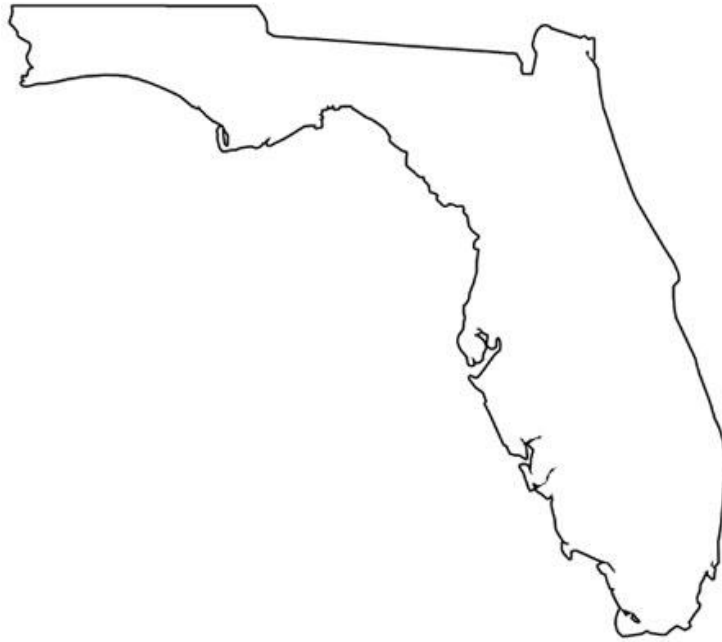


# Invasive Reptiles and Amphibians of Florida!



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# Welcome

**W**hat is an invasive species?

**W**here are they found in Florida?

**W**hat do they look like?

**H**ow can I help?

You came to the right coloring book, my friend! These questions and so many more can be answered  
by grabbing some crayons  
and turning the page.

**Things you will need:**

Your favorite coloring utensils  
Thinking cap

# What is an INVASIVE SPECIES ???

An invasive species is a plant or animal that is moved from its native area to another and causes economic or environmental harm to the new area.

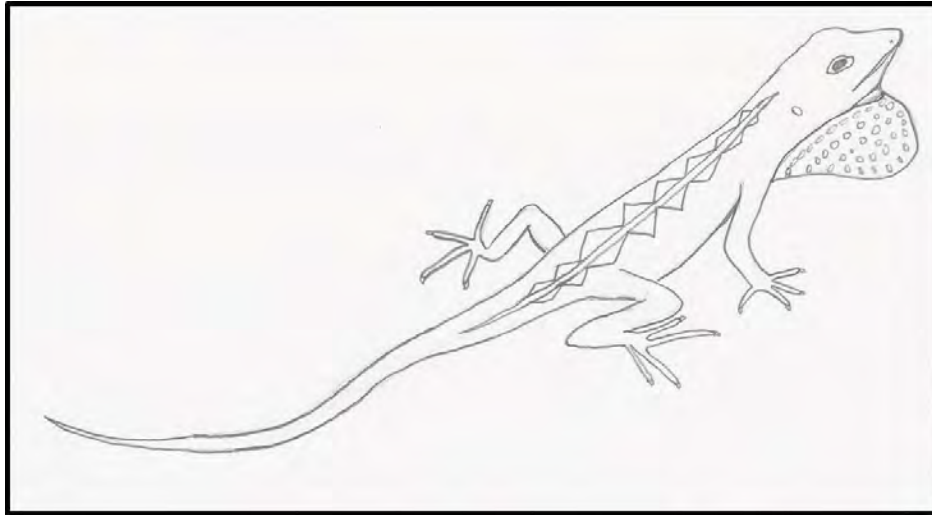
There are **6** main ways a plant or animal can move from its native home to a non-native area:

1. Biological control: moved by humans to help control other animals
2. Hitchhike: catches a free ride on cars, boats, or planes
3. Food: Some people eat frog legs or other animal parts
4. Plant trade: hiding in a plant is a sneaky way to travel
5. Pet Trade: people want animals they can't find in their backyard
6. Intentional: Someone brought it for some specific reason

For many invasive reptiles and amphibians in Florida, the animals came through the pet trade.

# Brown Anole

*Anolis sagrei*

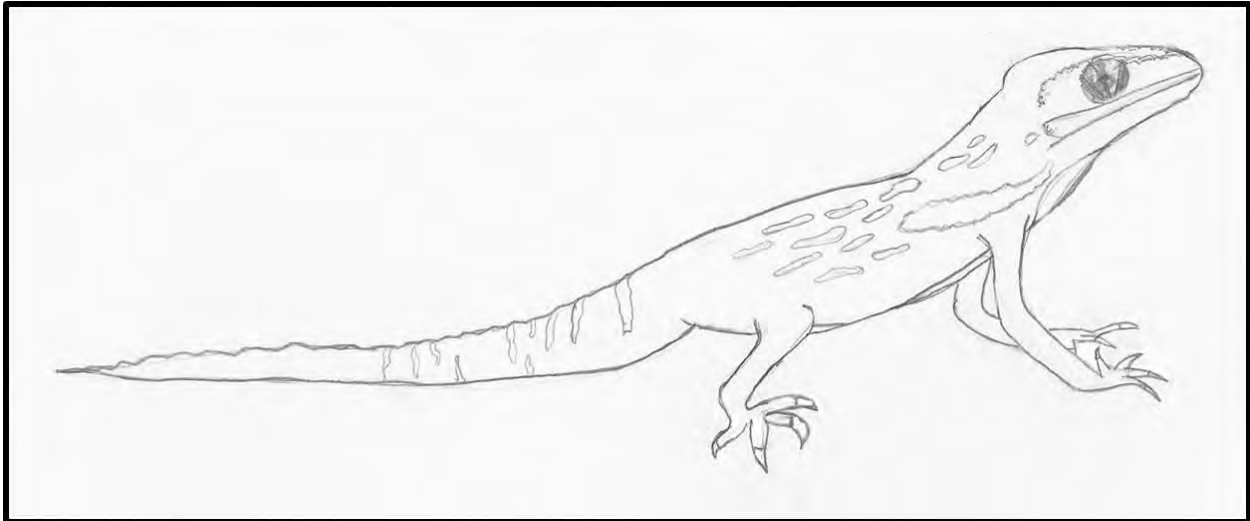


This is a Cuban Brown Anole! The brown anole is originally from Cuba, but came to Florida when it hitched a ride on some cargo. They are brown, with lots of different patterns on the back, and males have a bright red flap on their neck called a dewlap. They are bad at sharing and take food and habitat away from our native Green Anole (*Anolis carolinensis*).



# Knight Anole

*Anolis equestris equestris*

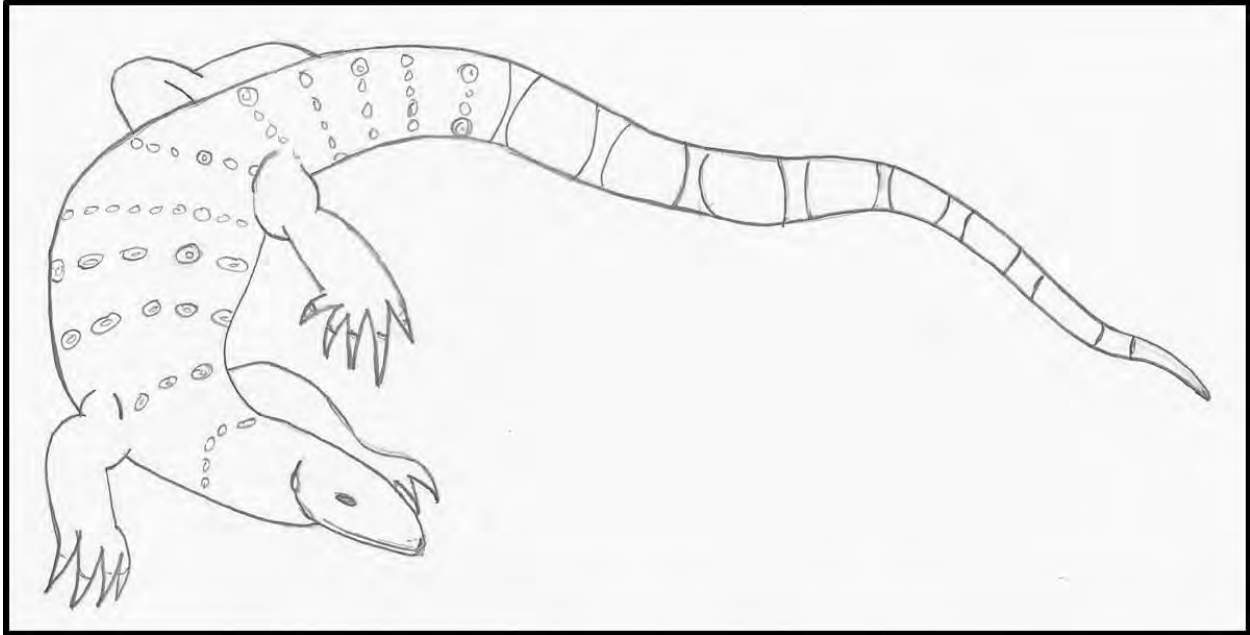


This is a Knight Anole! (Hint: don't pronounce the 'K'!) The knight anole is originally from Cuba, but came to Florida when a pet owner let it free from its cage. They have a bright green body with yellow stripes behind their eyes, and are much bigger than other native green lizards!



# Nile Monitor

*Varanus niloticus*

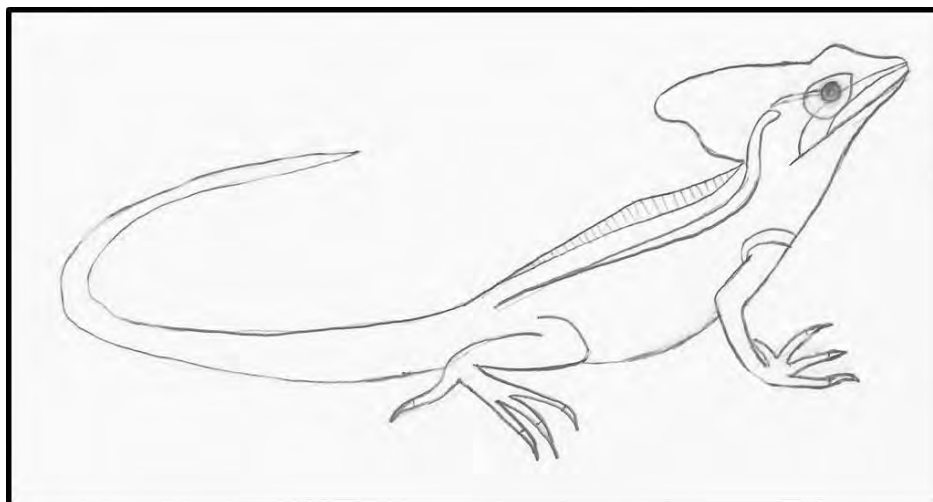


This is a Nile Monitor! They came from tropical Africa and got to Florida through the pet trade. They are black with yellow spots and stripes all over their body and can be over seven feet long! Lots of people are scared of them because they are carnivorous and hang out in people's yards close to canals.



# Brown Basilisk

*Basiliscus vittatus*

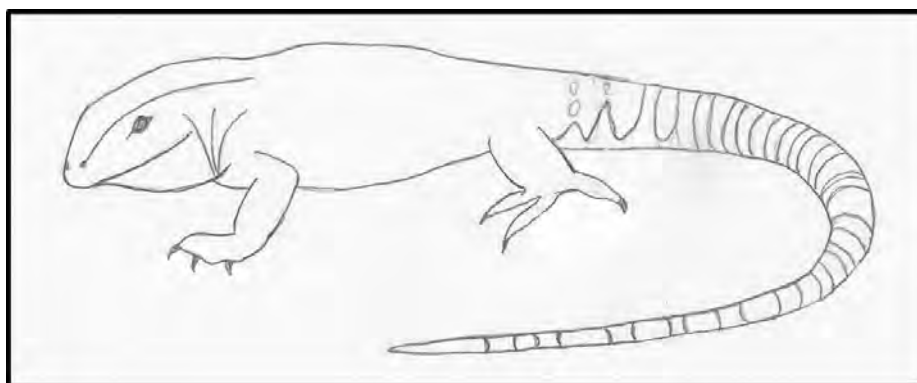


Brown Basilisks are actually from Central America. They are brown with yellow stripes on their body and a large crest on their head and they possess the unique talent of being able to run across water! They mostly eat insects and stay along canals and other bodies of water.



# Argentine Black and White Tegu

*Tupinambis merianae*



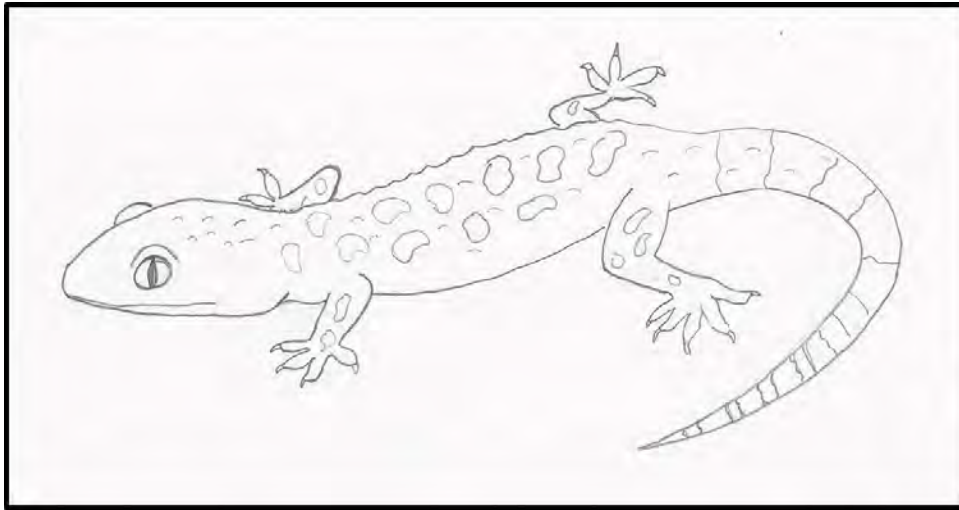
The Tegu is a large, thick, black and white lizard originally from South America. They got to Florida through the pet trade, because people love having them as pets! Tegus are omnivores and eat anything from plants to frogs to alligator eggs, making them a problem for native animals.





# House Gecko

*Hemidactylus spp.*

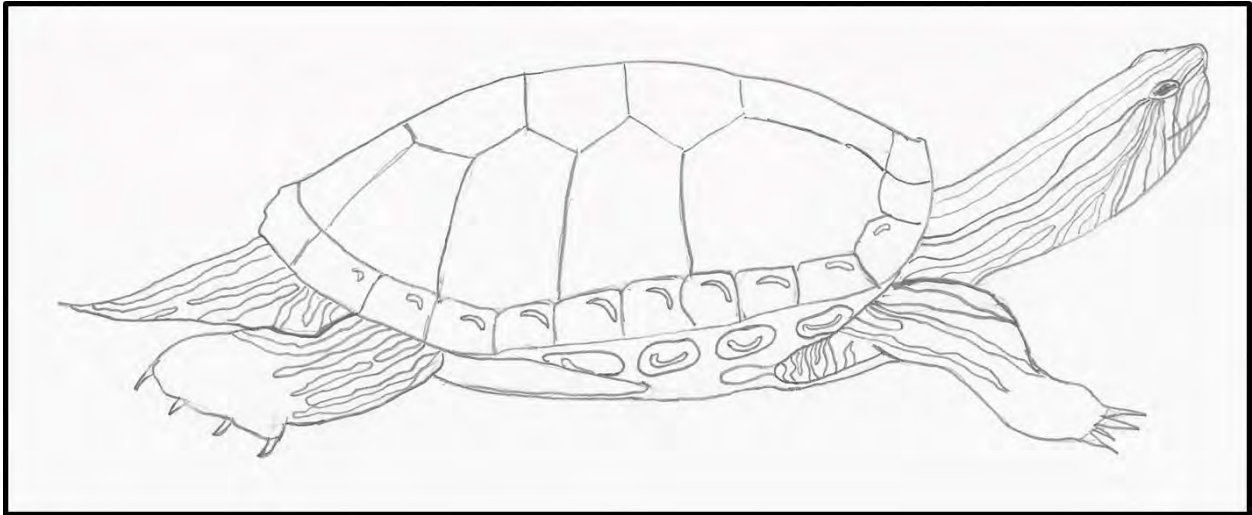


House Geckos have been transported all over the world because they hitch rides on cargo. They're now found throughout Florida and many other parts of the United States. Their color ranges from pinkish to grayish and may be marbled with darker patches of color. People often see them around their porch lights at night, patiently waiting for insects to eat!



# Red Eared Slider

*Trachemys scripta elegans*

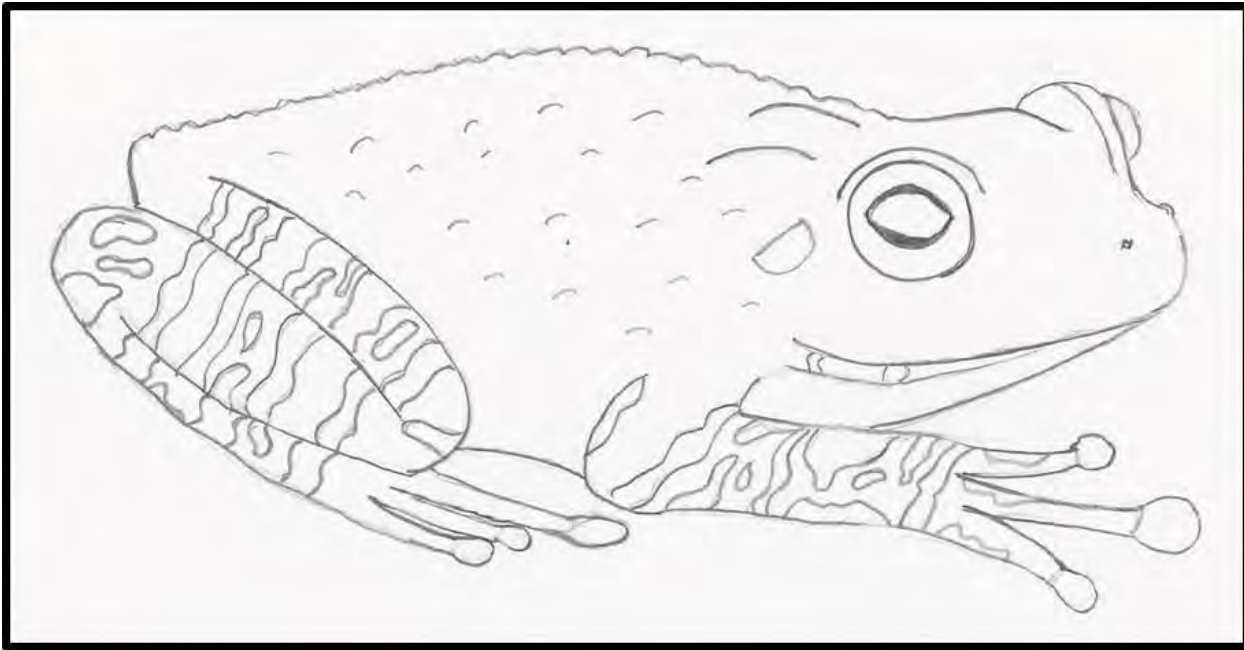


Found in lakes and rivers throughout much of Florida, this subspecies of the pond slider has tell-tale red streaks behind their eyes where their ears would be, and yellow on the top and bottom halves of their shell. They used to be popular in the pet trade but now they are no longer allowed to be sold as pets in Florida!

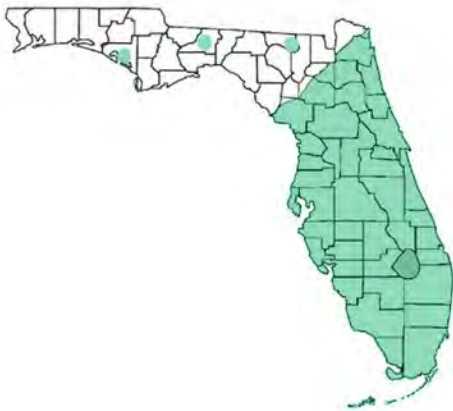


# Cuban Tree Frog

*Osteopilus septentrionalis*

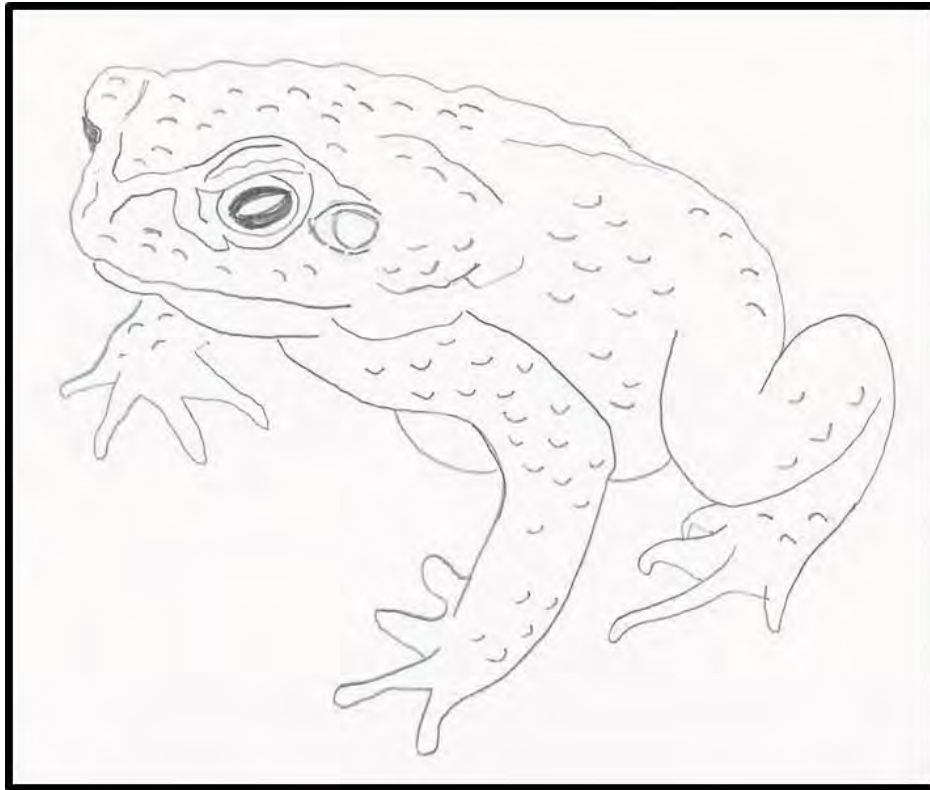


Individual Cuban Tree Frogs can look very different from each other! They can be whitish grey, green, or brown, and some have dark stripes or blotches. Their skin is warty, they have huge toe pads, large buggy eyes, and unlike other tree frogs, their skin is fused to their skull!. Their leg bones are florescent green and look blue when held up to the light! Now remember, if you touch one, wash your hands well! Their secretions are toxic and can hurt your eyes.



# Cane Toad

*Rhinella marina*

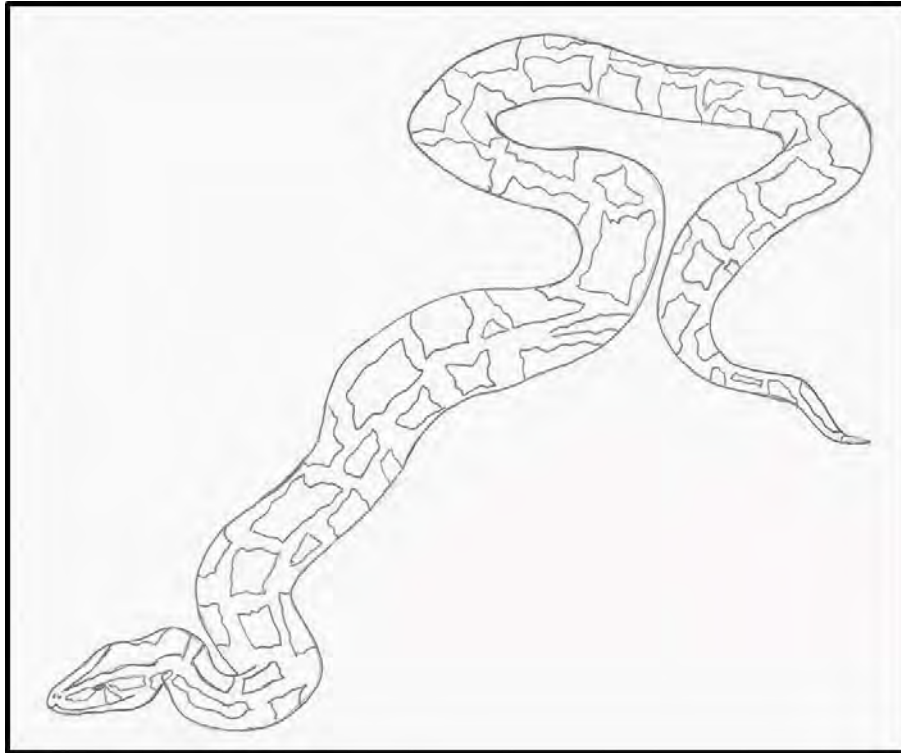


These toads live on land. They are tannish brown to grey with warty skin. They do not have a ridge or crest on top of their head, unlike the native Southern Toad. Keep your pets away from these toads because they are toxic!



# Burmese Python

*Python molurus bivittatus*



Pythons are mostly tan with beautiful dark brown spots. You can find them in marsh habitats. They eat anything they can fit their huge jaws around, so make sure to keep your pets inside! They can grow to be as long as your car.



# What can YOU do to help?

*Here are some tips that will make you a native animal hero!*

1. If you want to keep a pet reptile or amphibian, make sure you know what that animal will need in the future when it gets bigger. If you can't keep the animal for its entire life, you might want to rethink your choice!
2. Never let a pet loose in the wild. If you don't want it anymore, you can surrender it at one of FWC's "**Pet Amnesty Days**". Details are found on their website ([myfwc.com](http://myfwc.com)).
3. Talk to people about the problem and spread awareness! After all, **knowledge and ideas change the world.**
4. Do not leave food out for invasive animals and avoid giving them shelter.
5. Report sightings of invasive species to **Ivegot1.org**, or call in to the hotline at **1-888-Ive-Got1 (1-888-483-4861)**.

*It just goes to show that anyone can play a part in local wildlife conservation!*