



HOW TO SWITCH FROM LIVE TO FROZEN

- Use long tongs (never use your fingers!) to dangle the food in front of your reptile.
- Do not disturb your reptile after putting the thawed rodent in the cage. Cover the front of the cage and do not look into it until the next day.
- Feed sun-loving reptiles mid-day and feed nocturnal reptiles, like most snakes, at sundown or in the early evening.

IF YOUR REPTILE WON'T EAT

- Try foods in different sizes or colors.
- Let your reptile get inside a hideaway. Then, using tongs, wiggle the warm food in the entrance.
- Try different movements; up and down, side to side, at different speeds, etc.
- Using tongs, drag the food across the feeding container, making it "hop".
- Place the thawed rodent in dirty bedding from live rodents to make it smell more like a live rodent.
- Feed a small live food followed by a frozen/thawed item.
- Leave the food in the feeding habitat overnight to encourage your reptile to explore the food and eventually accept it.
- Look for positive reactions (head turning, tongue flicks, stalking behavior) while you are feeding your reptile. If the reptile appears stressed, stop and try again later.
- Be patient; it will not hurt your reptile to miss a meal every once in a while. Don't give in too easily and return to feeding live.

Never re-use an uneaten rodent.

The process of thawing and refreezing can cause the rodent to become rotten and unwholesome to eat.



FUN Happens Here!

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FEEDING GUIDE Frozen Rodents



★ **Thaw BEFORE feeding** ★

DO NOT MICROWAVE!

It can leave cold spots in the middle, cook the inside of the prey or make the food explode.

WE FEED FROZEN RODENTS TO OUR SNAKES IN THE STORE

- Can't bite or scratch reptile
- Can't bite or scratch owner
- Freezing kills many parasites
- More economical
- Convenient
- Steady availability
- No chance of rodent escaping
- Sanitary; no urine or feces
- All frozen foods are humanely euthanized according to a set of government-dictated guidelines

HOW TO THAW

For best thawing tips, follow instructions on the USDA Food Safety website: tinyurl.com/THAWSAFE

- Put the frozen items in a container (used ONLY for thawing frozen rodents) and fill with tap water. Leave the food in the water until thawed.
- Or leave the frozen food in the refrigerator overnight to slowly thaw.
- If time is an issue, pinkies are usually small enough that they can defrost by running them under warm tap water for a few minutes.

WARM FOOD BEFORE FEEDING

- Run hot water into the container to warm the food to above room temperature.
- Or remove from container, wrap in paper towel and either place under heating lamp for a few minutes or use blow dryer to warm.

