

## ***Suggested values for ventilation of some exotic species.***

### **Note:**

There is no formula for determining the pressure setting of the Vetronic Services SAV03 ventilator since the pressure and resulting volume are dependant fully on the compliance of the respiratory system of the animal being ventilated. However some average values are given as a guide. There is no danger in using the upper value in any of the ranges given but the operator must assess the degree of ventilation by observation and adjust for normal chest excursions or limb movements.

### **Iguanas/lizards**

Small/ thin 5cm H<sub>2</sub>O – large/fat 10cm H<sub>2</sub>O  
Set pressure for normal chest excursion.

### **Snakes**

Small 6 cm H<sub>2</sub>O – large 10cm H<sub>2</sub>O  
Set pressure for normal chest excursion. Note that the long trachea may require a higher pressure setting than above to achieve full ventilation.  
It is very difficult because of variations in compliance and size of snakes to give a set figure for the trigger value. This does not matter as the approach should always be to start at a low value say 2 or 3 and increase the trigger setting until you achieve natural ventilation.  
You should aim to see obvious respiratory movements in the cranial 1/3 to 1/2 of the snake only. Respiratory movements beyond this could result in over-inflation.  
Flow rates. To some extent this is governed by the size of the snake but aim for an inspiratory period of about 2-3 seconds. A large 8 ft python will want about 2-3L/min and a 1-2 kg snake about 1/2 - 3/4 L/min. If you have a leaky tube you may need to exceed this to compensate for the leak.

### **Tortoises/turtles**

Normal range 8 – 10 cm H<sub>2</sub>O  
Set the pressure to produce small outward movements of the hind limbs as an indicator of intra-coelomic pressure.

### **Birds**

Tracheal or air-sac ventilation. Normal range 4 – 12 cm H<sub>2</sub>O.  
Set the pressure for normal chest movements.

In use, observe the patient before induction and mimic the respiratory rate and movements during anaesthesia.