

Guidelines for Submitting a Cover Photo for the *Sonoran Herpetologist*

Patrick Brown and the Editorial Board, Tucson Herpetological Society, Tucson, AZ; editor.sonoran.herp@gmail.com

The *Sonoran Herpetologist* Editorial Board is now accepting photo submissions for the cover of the journal. Below we provide submission guidance for those interested in having your photo featured on the cover.

High resolution: The photo should be at least 300 dpi and in a high-resolution format such as JPEG or TIFF.

Composition: The photo should be well-composed and visually striking. It should clearly show the subject of the photo, and the lighting and exposure should be appropriate. The photo should also be framed in portrait orientation, or otherwise amenable to cropping for that orientation.

Species: The photo should depict a species found in Arizona or northwest Mexico. The species should be correctly identified, and any relevant taxonomic and/or natural history information should be included.

Information: The photo should be accompanied by the photographer's contact information, including name, email address, and phone number. In addition, the date and location the photo was taken should be provided. The location should be at least at the county or municipality level, and any other relevant information about the location (e.g., habitat type) should be included. Exceptions may be made for sensitive species.

Permissions: If the photo includes any person(s), written permission from the individuals or their guardians should be obtained and submitted with the photo.

License: A license allowing the *Sonoran Herpetologist* to use the photo on its cover and in associated promotional materials is implied upon submission. This license includes any necessary attribution requirements, and the photographer should be aware that the journal retains the right to edit or crop the photo as necessary. By submitting the photo, the photographer agrees to these terms and grants the journal the necessary permission to use the photo.

Ethics: The photo should adhere to ethical guidelines for photography in the field of herpetology and the photo should not depict any behavior that is harmful to the animal or its habitat. Handling of animals by humans in photos should be restricted to those conducting research or in an otherwise educational context, especially venomous species.

Ethical Considerations for Herpetological Photography

As an organization dedicated to herpetological conservation, research, and education, the Tucson

Herpetological Society takes the ethics of herpetological photography very seriously. We believe that photography can be a powerful tool for documenting and sharing knowledge about reptiles and amphibians, but it must be done responsibly and with respect for the animals and their habitats.

One of the most important ethical guidelines for herpetological photography is to prioritize the welfare of the animals being photographed. This means avoiding any behavior that could harm the animals or their habitats, such as trampling vegetation, traversing rock slides, removing animals from their territory/habitat, or disturbing sites serving a critical ecological need such as those for brumation or parturition.

In addition to prioritizing animal welfare, herpetological photographers should also prioritize the accuracy and honesty of their images. This means avoiding extraneous manipulation of the animals or their habitats for a better shot, such as moving an animal to a more photogenic location or wiping debris from the scene. Photographers should also be transparent about any post-processing that has been done to their images, and avoid misrepresenting the animals or their behaviors through creative editing.

Herpetological photographers should also be respectful of the scientific and conservation communities who rely on their images for research and education. This means providing accurate and detailed information about the species being photographed, including taxonomy, behavior, and habitat. Photographers should also be transparent about the circumstances in which their images were taken, such as the location, date, and any necessary permissions or permits.

Finally, herpetological photographers should be respectful of other photographers and the public, recognizing that their images can have a powerful impact on the public perception of reptiles and amphibians. This means avoiding any behavior that could reflect poorly on the herpetological community, such as trespassing, disrupting natural habitats, unnecessary handling, particularly of venomous species, or creating dangerous situations for themselves or others.

By following these ethical guidelines, herp photographers can play an important role in documenting and sharing knowledge about these fascinating and often misunderstood animals while contributing to their conservation and protection. The Tucson Herpetological Society is committed to promoting responsible herpetological photography, and we encourage all photographers to join us in this effort.

Send submissions to Howard Clark:

editor.sonoran.herp@gmail.com