

# DRAPER Journal

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FREE!

## Business Spotlight

### *Scales and Tails Utah*



By Peri Kinder

Fluffy the tarantula. Twinkle Toes the tortoise. Tweety the scorpion. These creepy, crawly creatures are just a few of the stars in the Scales and Tails Utah interactive reptile show. For four years, Shane Richins and his team of professional reptile handlers have provided fun, educational and entertaining shows for birthday parties, scout groups, school assemblies or any other event where lizards and pythons might be needed. What once started as a side job has turned into a fulltime profession with Shane's group performing shows on a regular basis. The excitement of being around a 14-foot Burmese python or an 85-pound giant tortoise has encouraged

Scales and Tails Utah to bring exotic animals to residents all over the Salt Lake Valley.

"Who wouldn't want to handle animals you wouldn't normally handle?" Shane says. "I enjoy it and think it's fantastic."

Shane's attraction to reptiles and eight-legged carnivorous arthropods began when he took over the care of his little brother's iguana. Shane bought a harness for the creature and took him everywhere. Soon he began reading about different types of animals and started collecting them. Having accumulated a large variety of snakes, lizards, scorpions, tarantulas and tortoises, Shane decided to share his love of reptiles with the commu-

nity.

Scales and Tails Utah reptile shows can be scheduled any time of day, any day of the week by contacting Shane at 577- 7182 or by e-mail at [Shane@scalesandtailsutah.com](mailto:Shane@scalesandtailsutah.com). Shows can be held in homes, classrooms, parks, libraries or community centers. With three different shows to choose from, clients can customize their reptile show experience.

"People can request certain animals and we will try to accommodate them," Shane says. "But we have no venomous snakes or lizards."

The Teaser Show is a 30-minute show using six reptiles. The Medium Show is a 45-minute program and one finale animal, either a giant tortoise or python. And the Large Show is 45 minutes of lizards, tortoises, snakes and crawly things with both the python and the giant tortoise. Each show includes skits, songs and stories and handling for the audience members. For more information about shows and prices, visit

[www.scalesandtailsutah.com](http://www.scalesandtailsutah.com).

Shane's group has scheduled free performances during June so people can get a sense of what the shows offer. Scales and Tails Utah will be performing at the West Jordan Library, Kearns Library, Bingham Creek Library and the Holladay Library in the next month. A complete schedule with dates and times can be found on the website.

"Kids are excited about the natural world and they get to see these animals they normally wouldn't see," Shane says.