

# One wild neighborhood?

People--  
Hawes

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## Those who live near cobra owner have mixed feelings

By **KELLY GILBERT**  
Freeman Staff

**EAGLE** - When David Schneider of 456 N. Sherman St. moved into the neighborhood, neighbors knew he brought his pet store with him.

"We knew that he had the snakes," said Pat Hawes of 460 North Sherman St. "We didn't know he had the poisonous ones."

Schneider was bit by his spitting cobra Dec. 1 and spent several days in the hospital after receiving antivenom. Since the incident, it was determined that Schneider did not do anything illegal by having the snake, however, the village is considering creating ordinances to prevent this type of incident in the future.

"They were very nice people," said Pat Hawes. "They're animal people."

Her husband, Rob, explained that Schneider would take animals to different events and do shows with the creatures.

"He thinks everyone should be friendlier to reptiles," said Rob Hawes.

Judi Solfest of 462 N. Sherman St. was shocked when she heard what happened.

"A cobra here in Eagle?" she said. "People have dogs and cats. They don't have cobras."

Solfest welcomed the idea of regulations put in place by the village.

"I think it would be a good idea," agreed Pat Hawes. "Who knows what neighbors have?"

Neighbors reported seeing chickens running around in addition to fish being housed outside, a large turtle and alligators.

"They built ponds in the back for the alligators," said Rob Hawes, Pat's husband. "We knew he had a desert tortoise; we could see it."

While the alligators might seem unnerving, the ponds were enclosed and no one expressed concerns over it. It was the idea of running into a snake that was upsetting.

"I'm not a fan of snakes," said Carol Lake of 450 N. Sherman St.

Lake has lived in the neighborhood since 1956 and was worried about children's safety had a snake escaped. However, no one was injured by the exotic pets since the animals arrived about a year ago.

"I'm sorry it happened to him," said Solfest. "I don't wish that on anybody."

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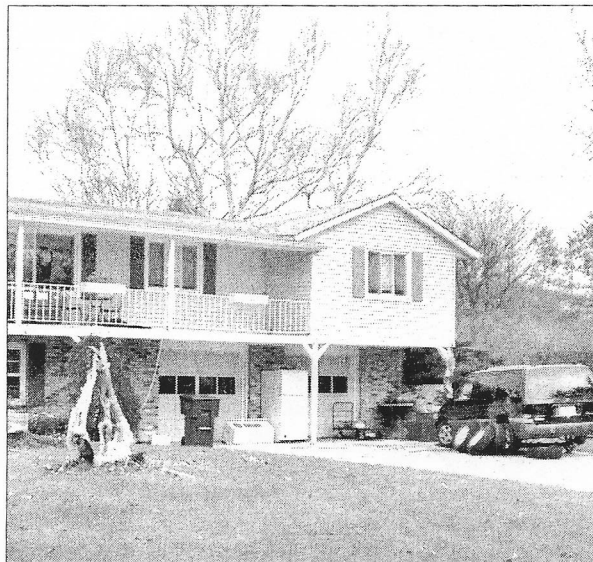
Kelly Gilbert/ Freeman Staff

Rob and Pat Hawes knew their neighbor, David Schneider, had snakes but didn't know one was a poisonous spitting cobra.



### WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

If something interesting is going on in your neighborhood, call Kelly Gilbert at 513-2669 or e-mail [kgilbert@conley.net](mailto:kgilbert@conley.net).



Neighbors watched David Schneider move many creatures into his house including chickens, fish, alligators, snakes and a large turtle.