

# Natural show-offs

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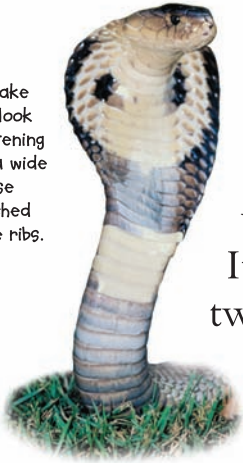


## 239



# Natural show-offs

► Cobras make themselves look more threatening by forming a wide hood of loose skin, stretched over flexible ribs.



**237** Certain reptiles and amphibians love to make a show of themselves. Some of this 'display' behaviour is used to attract females when the breeding season comes around. It is also used to make enemies think twice before attacking.

**238** Male newts go to great lengths to impress during the mating season. Great crested newts develop frills along their backs, black spots over their skin, and a red flush across the breast. Their colourful spring coat also warns off enemies.



▲ This great crested newt from Europe is showing its colours.

**239** The male anole lizard of Central and South America guards his territory and mates jealously. When rival males come too close, he puffs out a bright red throat pouch at them. Two males may face each other with inflated throats for hours at a time!

