

Questions to better help identify underlying issues and fast-track success.

Often, we see reptiles and amphibians in the vet clinic due to husbandry-related issues that could have been prevented. It is our job to recognize this and educate our clients to better aid our beloved animals.

Common issues we see in the clinic-

- Impaction
- Scale Rot
- Bacterial infections
- Stopped eating
- Skin issues (poor shedding, infections)
- Upper respiratory infection
- MDE due to husbandry

Common underlying problems to the issues-

- Basking temps too low
- Non-digestible substrates
- Improper humidity requirements
- Lack of husbandry needs

Here are some questions to help assess potential issues-

1. What is the basking point temperature during the day?
 - Ambient on the hot side and cool side temperatures?

This can be a cause of impaction and lack of appetite

2. What is the humidity on the hot side and cool side?
 - How are they measuring it? Is it a probe or analog?

Scale rot, respiratory infections, and bacterial infections

3. What kind of substrate are you using?
 - Is it bioactive with microflora and microfauna? When was the last time it was changed if not?

Non-natural substrates (Play sand, Coco Coir) have many issues in the habitat. Digestion issues, scale rot, and skin infections due to harmful bacteria built up in the coco coir from not being changed. Eating play sand can cause impaction. No substrate or "reptile carpet" will cause issues with the shed.

4. What is being fed and how often?

- What kind of protein is being offered? What kind of vegetables are offered?

Insects with hard exteriors can become difficult to digest as animals age, if basking is not optimal issues with impaction can occur. Is the animal getting what it needs for its age group to grow properly?

5. Is UVB being used?

- Is it linear UVB? How often is the bulb changed? Is it the appropriate level for the animal?

Lack of UVB is a major cause of nongenetic MDE and inefficient processing of calcium and vitamins. Linear is a better option for long-body animals. UVB too low will aid in a deficiency and UVB too high can aid in retinal/skin damage.

6. Are calcium and vitamins being given?

- What kind of calcium? D3 free or with D3. Are vitamins offered? How often are they given?

A lack of proper supplements can aid in the early onset of MDE and other health issues. If the wrong calcium is being given there can be an overdose in D3 or underdose.

These will help identify issues the client may have not been thinking about. Together we can care for and continue to improve the lives of the animals.

-The Dude Abides.

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August 4th, 2022