HEALTH & DISEASES



This column is taken care of by the "Studygroup for Diseases and the Optimum Keeping and Breeding of Terrarium Animals" of the Belgian Society "Terra". If there is a question concerning health or diseases, feel free to contact the president of the Studygroup: Mr. Hugo Claessen, Arthur Sterckstraat 18, B-2600 Berchem, Belgium. He will try to answer your question in this column to the benefit of all members.

BRIEF INSTRUCTION ON MEDICINES FOR TERRARIUM-ANIMALS.

By: H. Claessen, A. Sterckstraat 18, B-2600 Berchem, Belgium.
On behalf of the "Studygroup for Diseases and the Optimum Keeping and Breeding of Terrarium-Animals".

Contents: Foreword - Dosage - Example of a calculation - Indications of administration - Index of medicines.

FOREWORD

Although it is preferred that the help of a veterinary surgeon is sought for the administration of medicines to terrarium-animals, we have noted that many experienced amateurs do not call in for their assistence. This may be possible in many cases, but if one does not want to lose a sick animal, one has to know at least something

about the possible administrations and different doses of medicines. In the following index the more common medicines are given, along with their active components, type, concentration, administration, and dose.

DOSAGE

Because of the possible errors that may occur in calculating the dose, sometimes causing the death of a patient, I would like to go somewhat further into this matter.
The following information must be available when calculating the dose of a medicine:

1. The bodyweight of the animal in grams.
2. The concentration of the medicine to be used. The necessary information, expressed in quantity of active components per (international) volume, or weight unit (I.U.), must be given on the package or in the enclosed instructions for use. If needed one has to convert those values in milligrams per millilitre (mg/ml), in the case of liquids, and in the case of powders or tablets, in milligrams per gram (mg/g).
3. The required dose in milligrams per kilogram bodyweight of the animal. This information is given in the index of medicines below.

The amount of medicine to be administered can be calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{bodyweight} \times \text{dose}}{1000 \times \text{concentration}} = \text{millilitres or grams medicine}$$

EXAMPLE OF A CALCULATION

A *Boa constrictor* infected with worms can be injected with Ripercol.

1. Bodyweight of the snake: 4750 g
2. Concentration of Ripercol: 100 mg/ml
3. Dose: 20 mg/kg

Calculation: $\frac{4750 \times 20}{1000 \times 100} = 0.95$

So the required quantity of Ripercol to be injected will be 0.95 ml.

INDICATIONS OF ADMINISTRATION

If small quantities are to be injected, it is recommended not to dilute the medicine, since this has to be done in sterile conditions, which is difficult to achieve. It is better to use a special syringe (Tuberculine syringe), suitable for injecting small quantities.
If a soluble medicine must be administered through the mouth, diluting is permitted. Drinking water can be used to dilute the medicine, unless otherwise indicated in the index. The solution has to stay clear, to be sure that the medicine has dissolved completely.
Non soluble powders or crushed tablets can be split by spreading them in a line on a clean piece of paper. This line should be of equal width and height. If 15 mg are needed of a tablet of 150 mg, and the line has a length of 12.5 cm, then 15 mg equals:

$\frac{15}{150} \times 12.5 = 1.25$ cm of the length of the line.

One has to make as much powder as will be needed for the number of days to effect a cure. Note down the used portion, or remnant, of the 150 mg tablet.

INDEX OF MEDICINES

Acinitrazol
Active component: Acetamidonitrothiazole
Packing : powder, 100%
Active against : amoeba, flagellates, coccidia
Administration : orally
Dosage : 10 mg/kg, for 4 days

Arovit
Active component: Vitamin A
Packing : ampoule, 300,000 I.U./ml
Active against : Avitaminosis A
Administration 1: orally
Dosage : 5000 I.U./kg, for 5 days
Administration 2: I.M.
Dosage : 30,000 I.U./kg, once

Becozym
Active component : Vitamin B complex
Packing : ampoule, 33 mg/ml
Active against : Avitaminosis B
Administration 1 : orally
Dosage : 0.5 - 1 ml/kg, once
Administration 2 : I.M. or I.P.
Dosage : 0.5 - 1 ml/kg, once

Belcomycin
Active component : Colistine (do not dilute)
Packing : ampoule, 200,000 I.U./ml
Active against 1 : gastrointestinal inflammation
Administration: orally
Dosage : 50,000 I.U./kg, for 6 days
Active against 2 : bacterial infections
Administration: I.M. or I.P.
Dosage : 50,000 I.U./kg, for 10 days

Biosol M
Active component : Neomycin

Packing : solution, 300 mg/ml
Active against : Gastritis and enteritis
Administration : orally
Dosage : 100 mg/kg, for 5 days

Calcium Sandos
Active component : calcium gluconate
Packing : solution, 100 mg/ml
Active against : calcium deficiency
Administration : I.M. or I.P.
Dosage : 40-80 mg/kg, for 3 days

Deka-Duraboline
Active component : Nandrolone
Packing : ampoule, 25 mg/ml
Active against : stress, roborans
Administration : I.M.
Dosage : 50 mg/kg, once

Droncit
Active component : Praziquantel
Packing : tablet
Active against : trematodes
Administration : orally
Dosage : 5 mg/kg, repeat after 14 days

Duodegran
Active component : Ronidazole
Packing : powder, 10%
Active against : amoeba, flagellates
Administration : orally
Dosage : 10 mg active component (so 100 mg Duodegran)/kg,,for 5-8 days

EsB3
Active component : chloro-2-pyrazinylsulphamide
Packing : powder, 100%
Active against : coccidia
Administration : orally
Dosage : 50 mg/kg,,for 3 days

Flagyl
Active component : Metronidazole
Active against ::amoeba, flagellates
Packing 1 : tablets of 250 mg
Administration: orally
Dosage : 50 mg/kg,,for 10-14 days
Packing 2 : solution, 5 mg/ml
Administration: I.M.
Dosage : 50 mg/kg,,for 10 days

Ivomec
Active component : Ivermectine (do not dilute)
Packing : solution, 10 mg/ml
Active against : blood-sucking helminths and ectoparasites
Administration : I.M.
Dosage : 0.2 mg/kg, once. The effect is partial as free dwelling parasites are not affected. Treat the terrarium with Neguvon.

Kanamycin
Active component : Kanamycin
Packing : solution, 100 mg/ml
Active against : bacterial infections
Administration 1 : orally
Dosage : 50 mg/kg, for 5 days
Administration 2 : I.M.
Dosage : 20 mg/kg, for 5 days

Lincocyn
Active component : Lincomycin
Packing : solution, 300 mg/ml
Active against : bacterial infections
Administration 1 : orally
Dosage : 60 mg/kg, for 5 days
Administration 2 : I.M.
Dosage : 20 mg/kg, for 5 days

Neguvon
Active component : Trichlorphon
Packing : powder
Active against : ectoparasites
Administration 1 : put the snake in a linen bag, dip it in the solution, and leave the snake in the wet bag for about one hour.
Dosage : 0.2%
Administration 2 : spray the solution in the terrarium
Dosage : 1.5%

Nizoral
Active component : Ketoconazole
Packing : powder, or tablets of 200 mg
Active against : mycotic infections
Administration : orally
Dosage : 30 mg/kg, for 21 days

Nystatin
Active component : Nystatin
Packing : solution, 100,000 I.U./ml
Active against : mycotic infections of skin and intestinal tract
Administration 1 : orally
Dosage : 15,000 I.U./kg, for 5 days
Administration 2 : dermal application
Dosage : undiluted, dayly, until at least 14 days after disappearance of the visible lesions.

Panacur
Active component : Fenbendazole
Packing : powder, 10%
Active against : helminths (lungworms too)
Administration : orally
Dosage : 1 mg active component (so 10 mg Panacur)/kg, for 5 days

Ripercol
Active component : Tetramisole
Packing : solution, 100 mg/ml
Active against : Nematodes
Administration 1 : orally
Dosage : 50 mg/kg, for 2 days
Administration 2 : I.M. or I.P.
Dosage : 20 mg/kg, for 2 days

Sprint Geel
Active component : Ronidazole
Packing : powder, 1%
Active against : amoeba, flagellates
Administration : orally
Dosage : 10 mg active component (so 1 g Sprint Geel)/kg, for 5-8 days

Syntocinon
Active component : Oxytocin
Packing : solution, 10 I.U./ml
Active against : eggbinding
Administration : I.M.
Dosage : 0.2 I.U./kg, once

Vamin Glucose/Fructose
Active component : aminoacids
Packing : solution
Active against : dehydratation, weakness
Administration : I.P.
Dosage : 10-20 ml/kg, for 5 days

Vermox/Telmin
Active component : Mebendazole
Packing : tablets of 100 mg
Active against : Nematodes, Acanthocephala
Administration : orally
Dosage : 10 mg/kg, for 3 days

Vitamin D_3

Active component	:	Vitamin D_3
Packing	:	solution, 600,000 I.U./ml
Active against	:	Avitaminosis D_3
Administration 1	:	orally
Dosage	:	1000 I.U./animal, once
Administration 2	:	I.M.
Dosage	:	1000 I.U./animal, once

Yomesan

Active component	:	Niclosamide
Packing	:	tablets of 500 mg
Active against	:	Cestodes
Administration	:	orally
Dosage	:	100 mg/kg, for 4 days