

FEEDING PROBLEMS IN CORALLUS CANINUS.

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*Corallus caninus* sets the hearts of many herpetologists beating faster. However, this is in a negative as well as in a positive sense. Positive, because it is a beautiful snake; negative, because it often has feeding problems, such as regurgitation of the prey. We made some inquiries about this regurgitation problem but did not get a clear answer to our questions.

It struck us that people feed these snakes too frequently with too much food at a single feed. Additionally, the prey offered is frequently above optimum size. It is useful to allow the animals to become accustomed to their new habitat before offering food. When the snake has settled down, one should offer it a small prey initially. It is advisable to do this for two months, offering food every fourteen days. After that the prey size can be increased and also the period between the feeds can be lengthened, eventually reaching once in a month.

The drinking and spraying water should be acid, not alkaline. To raise the humidity a humidifier can be used. It is useful to supply extra vitamins and calcium. When the snake regurgitates its prey again, start treatment from the beginning and try to feed prey without hairs because fur often causes this regurgitation problem. Force feeding will normally produce adverse effects. It stresses both the owner and his animal. Young snakes that have to eat for the first time in their lives form an exception to this rule.

A *Corallus caninus* may be hanging from its branch every evening with its head downwards, watching

for anything to eat. Even a snake that regurgitates its prey regularly or is almost dead will do so. But do not let them tempt you into feeding them, because this can be the last straw. It is advisable to follow the feeding scheme that was worked out for this snake.

It is a pity that less is published about this snake, especially concerning the negative experiences. Because of this information lack, there is less insight into the problem of prey regurgitation and it is desirable that other keepers of *Corallus caninus* will publish their experiences and possible solutions.

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Translation: Piet Schiereck.