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TROUBLESOME OFF-SPRING OF *ELAPHE GUTTATA*  
(ALBINO RED PHASE) AFTER A CAESARIAN SECTION.

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In a previous article I wrote about how a female *Elaphe guttata* was relieved of her eggs by means of a caesarian section (Bakker, 1987). The same female was temporarily housed, due to lack of space during a removal, with some snakes. This must have resulted in matings because on the 11th of April, during a cleaning session, I found an egg in the watertrough completely under water. The female was in her hiding place and at that moment producing a second egg. The eggs appeared rather unexpected as no matings were observed. The female had eaten as normal and had lost weight rather than gained it. It soon proved that the laying of the eggs wouldn't be easy this time too. The female had prolonged contractions but couldn't lay her eggs.

After 40 hours the help of dr. Lateur was called for. The animal was injected with oxytocin (12th of April at 20.30 h.) after which contractions started 10 hours later. 45 minutes later six eggs were laid, one of which was broken. It was obvious that one very large egg was still left sideways inside. The eggs were placed in an incubator. I waited for some time but due to the fact that the females condition worsened quickly (she was laying on her back, open-mouthed) I decided to act. I injected an anti biotic cream into the cloaca and tried to massage the egg out. This didn't work. After this I carefully broke the egg and applied massage again. After about fifteen minutes she succeeded in getting rid of all the egg-particles. Once again she was injected with

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anti-biotic cream and she soon recovered. After three days three eggs were removed because they were caved in and slimy. Again after 56 days of incubation, (28°C, 70% humidity) an egg was removed. After opening this egg it proved to contain a fully grown but dead juvenile. After 59 days the female unexpectedly produced another 11 small unfertilized eggs. On the 15th of June 1988 a small head protuded from the egg which had been found in the water. Four hours later the same thing happened with egg no. 2. One day later both animals had fully hatched. That same day the third egg hatched. They proved to be three very healthy snakes. After 7 and 9 days they shed their skins and started eating immediately.

I most sincerely thank dr. Lateur for once again offering help.

#### LITERATURE

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Translation; René van Marle.