

HERPETOLOGIA

A column for short herpetological contributions

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A SATISFACTORY RESCUE

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At the request of a friend I had a look at a sick *Elaphe guttata guttata* albino. The animal, purchased from a reptile house, refused to eat anymore. She produced slimy, green faeces, occasionally containing blood as well. In an attempt to get the snake to eat again, the owner had placed her separately in a box of 50x30x30 cm.

I suspected the animal to suffer from an intestinal infection. The skin of the snake was loose and wrinkled. In addition, a time-lag in growth was noticeable, since the animal was already a few months old yet only 29 cm in length. I kept her separately in a box as well and placed a heating mat underneath. In that way the temperature stayed at 30°C day and night. My treatment consisted of a cure of vitamin B12 and the antibiotic Sulvanetasin. Since the snake couldn't keep food down, I introduced cat's food in the stomach using a little tube attached to a syringe. After a few weeks this approach turned out to be successful. The faeces started to become normal and as time went by the animal started to feed independently again. She was fed with pink mice. She soon started to look healthier and more vivid again. Moreover, her weight increased.

Luckily this little animal pulled through with the necessary care and time.