

IODINE AS PANACEA (CURE ALL)

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Amongst my snakes there are a few individuals that have occasionally had mouth rot (infectious stomatitis) and/or scale rot. Beginners that have bought wild caught animals from the pet shop could also have had these problems.

After I had visited the veterinarian Marc Maas in Waalwijk (NL) with a sick snake, I received from him the following tip: in the early stages of mouth rot or scale rot, take betadine-iodine and place a few drops in a water container that you can close. Add to this tepid water and put the snake in this water bath for half an hour. The iodine slows down the growth of the bacteria and fungi and it also has a positive effect on the snake.

I have used this treatment now for years with success. I do this not only to combat developing mouth and scale rot but also as a preventative measure. On occasions a snake can get bitten by its prey (a large rat or hamster - that can bite back in its fight for life). If the snake receives a flesh wound or for example loses a few teeth or damages the inside of its mouth, then the iodine works excellently.

Before I received the iodine tip, I nearly always used the well-known panalog-salve or hydrogen peroxide. A cheap alternative for panalog is cat ointment for ear mite because they both contain terramycine. This gives a saving of a few pence or more per tube. An extra benefit from the iodine treatment is that this is better for the snake than other more extreme treatments, with other types of cures.

It is advisable when treating infections, to replace the floor covering with newspaper, as the printing ink slows down the growth of bacteria. Together these factors can speed up the recovery of the snake, without having to expend much effort. You do not have to be an experienced snake keeper for this treatment, although the correct dosage and administering must be done with expertise, to ensure the optimum results from this treatment.

I have used the iodine treatment for more than four years, with good results. I am very grateful to Marc Maas for this tip.

*Translation: Marjon Jasker,
Corrections: Mark Wootten.*

