

## HERPETOLOGIA

*A column for short herpetological contributions*

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On Saturday morning 17 October 1994, my brother came with a bag in his hand. I was enchanted to see there was a snake inside. It was a corn snake (*Elaphe guttata*). I thought it was my corn snake that had escaped, but my brother told me that he found it in a bundle of wood that had come from Malaysia.

After I had taken the little snake from the bag, I saw it was nearly cut in two. As I never had any trouble with my snakes before, I did not know where to turn for help. Then I called Iguana in Vlissingen if they knew where I could go. From them I got the telephone number from the animal clinic 'Den hert' in Waalwijk. They sent me to a veterinary surgeon in Eindhoven, but he could not be reached.

Then my mother told me, we had an acquaintance who was a veterinary surgeon and knew a lot about reptiles (Maja van Barneveld). After I called her, I could come immediately.

After the medical examination it turned out that the intestine was cut in two. If the cut would have been a bit lower, she could have performed an operation. Although the animal could have lived for a number of weeks, we have put it to sleep to avoid unnecessary suffering.