



WAHG

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An adult Boa imperator was presented at Boulevard Animal Hospital shortly after confiscation. The patient, suspected to be male (judged on morphology alone), had a prominent rostral swelling. On examination no oral lesions, stomatitis or nasal discharges could be seen.

Fine needle aspirates of the site proved inconclusive, and cytology proved devoid of cellular or bacterial contents. I can only speculate as to the origin of this swelling, with potential causes including previous rubbing, ectoparasites or potential injuries from cage mates or live prey. Regardless, I could not find any evidence of current, active infection. I would advise to monitor the situation closely, though.

The patient is underweight (currently 5kg), and mild dehydration was treated with subcutaneous fluids. I advised setting up its enclosure with a temperature gradient of 24-30°C, slightly moist and dry hides at both temperature extremes, and to maintain 12hour day and night cycles. Attempts at feeding small items (frozen-thawed adult mice, weaned rats), should be commenced after 1-2w at said regime.

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