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## FOREIGN BODIES IN REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT OPTIONS

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### ABSTRACT

Foreign bodies are common findings in captive reptiles and amphibians. Foreign objects often derive from the direct environment or are human-related and cause problems because of their size, shape or material. False management related intake of daily human articles or of oversized food caused disorders in two lizards and a frog.

Case one: an 8-yr-old female central bearded dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*) which swallowed a whole tape line. Diagnosis was made by clinical examination including palpation of the coelom and inspection of the cloaca. Radiographs revealed a filled digestive tract with two radiolucent foreign bodies within the stomach region. Gastrotomy was performed to remove the tape en bloc.

Case two: a 6-yr-old male green iguana (*Iguana iguana*) presented with a history of probable intake of a textile foreign body (tennis sock). Diagnosis was made by coelomic palpation, non-contrast radiographs and a subsequent contrast study revealed an accumulation of contrast media adhering to the sock within the small intestinal region. Gastroscopy was unsuccessful and enterotomy was necessary for the removal of the foreign body.

Case three: a 2-yr-old black-legged dart frog (*Phylllobates bicolor*) with a progressive coelomic distension because of the intake of a black soldier fly larva (*Hermetia illucens*). Retrieval was conducted under anesthesia via the oral cavity.

In all three cases, combined detailed preliminary report, clinical examination, non-contrast radiographs and a contrast-enhanced study led to the diagnosis of unusual gastrointestinal foreign bodies, which were all promptly removed.