SNAKE FUNGAL DERMATITIS

A recently identified “Snake Fungal Disease” is affecting wild and captive snakes in North America, Europe, and Australia. This fungus has been named *Ophidiomyces ophiodiicola* and it has been shown to affect the skin, eyes, and/or heat pits of several snake species. Infections with this fungus can be disfiguring or fatal. Veterinarians and wildlife biologists should consider this pathogen as a differential diagnosis for snakes with dermatitis. Information and photographs of affected snakes, and literature citations, are available at the USGS National Wildlife Health Center website:

http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/other_diseases/snake_fungal_disease.jsp

Samples can be submitted to diagnostic laboratories for culturing and identification, including:

- University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine
  Clinical Microbiology, Parasitology and Serology Lab—culturing.
  Phone 352-294-4540
cmps@vetmed.ufl.edu
- University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine
  Zoo Medicine Diagnostic Lab—PCR testing.
  Phone 352/294-4420
  http://labs.vetmed.ufl.edu/sample-requirements/zoo-med-infections/
- University of Illinois
  Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Wildlife Epidemiology Lab—PCR testing.
  Phone 217/333-1620
  http://vetmed.illinois.edu/wel/
  Phone 608/270-2480
- University of Texas
  Fungus Testing Lab, San Antonio
  Phone 210/567-4131
  http://strl.uthscsa.edu/fungus/

And three laboratories in Germany perform culturing:

- Laboklin GmbH & Co. KG  www.laboklin.de
- Synlab.vet GmbH  https://www.synlab.de
- University of Leipzig, Clinic for Birds and Reptiles http://vog.vetmed.uni-leipzig.de


The Association of Amphibian and Reptilian Veterinarians recommends contacting the appropriate laboratory regarding sampling, costs, and turnaround times.