



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/>
- USGS National Wildlife Health Center.
Phone 608/270-2480
[http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/services/Wildlife Mortality Reporting and Diagnostic Services Request Form 120415 saveable.pdf](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/services/Wildlife_Mortality_Reporting_and_Diagnostic_Services_Request_Form_120415_saveable.pdf)
- 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>

A recent review is available: Pare, JA, and L Siegler. 2016. An overview of reptile fungal pathogens in the genera *Nannizziopsis*, *Paranannizziopsis*, and *Ophidiomyces*. J Herpetol Med Surg 26(1-2): 46-53.

<http://www.jherpmedsurg.com/doi/abs/10.5818/1529-9651-26.1-2.46>

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