



info@aeacarizona.com

Address:
1911 South Lindsay Road
Mesa, AZ 85204

Phone: (480)706-8478
Fax: (480)393-3915
After Hours **Emergency Paging System**
(pages answered every night until 10 pm!)

Vomiting in Snakes

Regurgitation or vomiting is a common symptom seen in snakes – especially in boas and pythons. A veterinarian should examine affected snakes as soon as possible because the longer the disorder continues, the greater the risk of death from pneumonia or starvation.

Note that vomiting and regurgitation are symptoms of disease, but they are not diseases themselves. Therefore, the goal is to attempt to identify and correct the underlying cause. The table below lists some of the more common causes of vomiting or regurgitation. Many of the causes relate to improper management. In such cases, altering the husbandry techniques may solve the problem.

Snakes who continue to vomit or regurgitate in spite of an optimum environment and correct management generally will require an examination by a veterinarian and some combination of laboratory testing, x-rays, etc. in order to attempt to isolate the cause.

Possible reasons for vomiting:

Environment too cold

Food/Prey too cold

Snake too cold

Most boas and pythons prefer a temperature of at least 80 degrees Fahrenheit, with a focal hot spot, and a relative humidity of 50-70% or higher.

Food items too large

Excessive number of cage mates

Excessive handling

Handling too frequently after feeding

Snakes should be left undisturbed for four days after feeding

Behavioral anomaly

Some snakes that are very active and/or nervous and lack a proper hide box may vomit behaviorally if disturbed after eating a meal

Systemic infections

Internal parasites

Intoxication (poisons)

Metabolic disease

Purification of food in the gut

Foreign body obstruction

Cancer