



HOW TO GIVE YOUR REPTILE A SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION

Some treatments for reptiles require subcutaneous injections, which is a term that means an injection under the skin. Usually this is easier with two people – one to hold and one to give the injection. Please read below for step by step instructions on how to inject your reptile.

- Prepare your syringe and make sure it is close. If the medication in the syringe needs defrosting then ensure it is fully defrosted.
- Have a helper hold your reptile, firmly holding the head and the section of the body you wish to inject. If a helper is not available then place most of the body and head into a pillow case, then just have the part of the body you are injecting into out of the bag.
- Pull the cap off your needle and rotate it so the bevel of the needle is facing up. This means that the sharpest point is on the bottom and you can see the hole in the middle of the needle facing towards you
- For snakes - pick a point on the side of your snake, about midway up the side. For lizards and turtles generally identify an area on either their top to side or around the first part of their legs.
- Insert the needle at a 45-degree angle between the scales
- Once you have entered just under the scales flatten your syringe out so it is parallel to their body and advance the needle as needed.
- Pull back on the plunger and make sure there is no blood pulled back into the syringe
- Push the plunger and inject the medication
- Pull the needle and syringe out and place in the sharps container
- A small lump may be present after you inject, however this should go down over the next hour or so
- Next time you inject choose a site on the opposite side

If you have any questions or problems please do not hesitate to contact us!

