

Wild Peach Veterinary Clinic
20723 N. Hwy 36
Brazoria, TX 77422
979-798-9111

Justin R. Wright came to the clinic with his newly purchased color-morph red-tail boa, Casper, on August 22, 2012. He reportedly received it yesterday. It was shipped from a breeder. It has a defect in the first few inches of its ventrum consisting of overlapping cartilaginous tissues resulting in a deformation. The snake is moderately bloated down most of the caudal half. Handling the snake does not result in the activity expected of this age and type of snake. It lays quietly in the hand and does not attempt to move or get away and explore. It opens its mouth occasionally with no purpose evident. Some head movements appear non-directed with the body not following. Righting reflex is slow. Mr. Wright states the snake was received with mite infestation. Snake is a little thin and appears slightly dehydrated. Fecal exam on scant feces was negative.

Recommendations is to not use this snake as a breeder due to possible inherited defects. If owner wishes to pursue diagnostics, I would recommend radiographs, fecal with more feces sent to exotics laboratory, attempt to collect blood for analysis, routine deworming, soaking in warm water every other day, quarantine for a minimum of 6 months, and recheck all parameters in one month. I would recommend examinations and testing be done by a reptile specialist veterinarian.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn Dickerson-Willingham', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathryn Dickerson-Willingham DVM