

METABOLIC BONE DISEASE IN REPTILES

ECTOTHERM

It's incredible just how quickly juvenile lizards grow. Rapid growth requires strong and balanced nutritional support. Without the correct diet, young lizards very quickly develop serious, and in many cases, irreversible health issues. The most common and devastating of these health issues is MBD (Metabolic Bone Disease).

TEETH & MANDIBLE

Your reptile's mandible (jaw) should be firm and straight. Their top and bottom jaws should close together without any overhang. If your reptile has an under or overbite and their mandible is soft or deformed, this can indicate MBD.

MUSCLES

Strong, fluid movement of all four limbs is normal. A healthy bearded dragon should be able to completely lift their body off the ground and walk normally. If your reptile is dragging their body along the ground with poor movement/strength, particularly in hind legs, this can also be an indication of MBD.

SKELETON

Your reptile's spine and tail should be straight with no visual defects. If there are twists, kinks or bends in the spine or legs, this could indicate MBD.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

A nutritious and balanced reptile diet and correct lighting in your enclosure will prevent the onset of Metabolic Bone Disease. If your reptile has any of the above symptoms, or you just want to make sure, book into your veterinarian as soon as possible.



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