



Inclusion Body Disease and Divergent Arenavirus

Inclusion Body disease (IBD) is a transmissible, progressive, and ultimately fatal disease of snakes. In captive boid snakes, IBD is the most commonly diagnosed disease of suspected viral origin. There are no treatments or vaccines available and to date definitive diagnosis has relied on histopathological evidence of inclusion bodies in post mortem tissues or biopsies, which are difficult to obtain safely without risk to life in an already debilitated snake.

IBD is commonly found in captive snakes and can wipe out entire animal collections, so far the cause of this disease has remained elusive until now.

Recent research has demonstrated the discovery of possible arenavirus like genomes isolated ONLY from snakes that were IBD confirmed histopathologically. To date two distinct arenavirus like genomes have been discovered and one other partial genome in roughly 80% of these positive cases.

Most importantly these genomes were not found in ANY negative confirmed snakes or in any symptomless snakes so far tested.

Therefore we are now pleased to be able to offer a specific PCR test for these arenaviruses.

The samples required in living snakes are EDTA Blood along with an oesophageal plain swab.

The samples required post mortem are Brain, Liver or Kidney.

We are pleased to be able to offer this test at a very reasonable price of £38.00 excluding VAT with a turnaround time of 3-5 days.