

Giving Reptiles Injections

Some treatments for reptiles require a course of injectable medications to be given into the muscle of the forelimb. This may require two people, one to hold the reptile and one to administer the injection.

Some medications are frozen in pre-measured amounts, if the medication is frozen defrost the medication prior to injection by running the syringe under warm water or leave it out for 10-15 minutes prior to administration. There may also be more medication than required so discard any excess prior to injection.

To administer an injection to a lizard or turtle only ever use the forelimbs and alternate forelimbs with each injection

- The first person will need to hold the lizard or turtle with one hand behind the head so they cannot bite and the other hand around the body to immobilise them
- The second person will need to hold the front leg with one hand and feel for the bicep muscle between the elbow and shoulder (this is where the injection will go into the muscle)
- Disinfect the area prior to injection with an alcohol soaked swab such as iodine or metho
- Insert the needle at a 45° angle with the bevel facing up (between the scales for a lizard and into the skin for a turtle)
- Inject the medication slowly then remove the needle and apply pressure to the area to ensure no medication leaks out
- To avoid injury never recap a needle and dispose of the needle safely into an appropriate sharps container or a glass jar which can then be returned to us for safe disposal following the course of injections

