

GREEN IGUANA HORROR STORIES

(the results of abuse and neglect of the captive green iguana)



Never heard of MBD? That is when the iguanas body has not absorbed enough calcium and the iguanas bones become very brittle. A classic sign on MBD is the recessed jaw as shown in this picture of Carmen.

Nicky was adopted on March 5, 1999 after he/she had a very rocky beginning. Nicky was suffering from severe thermal burns, mites, and wounds from the mites snacking on his body. Unfortunately Nicky died in April after being transported to someone with more recovery experience. He/she died shortly after the move.



The latest iguana, who came to me without even a name, belonged to an 8-year-old who just had to have an iguana for Christmas. It was kept at his father's house, where the boy spent every other weekend. The iguana was housed in an old slate-bottom aquarium-type tank with plywood on top held down by bricks. When my husband and I picked up the iguana at the father's house, I could tell there was big trouble from the smell coming from inside the cage. The iguana was so thin that his pelvis, ribs, and base of tail stuck out sharply. Worst of all, he was covered with black crust. When we got home, I could see that the iguana was half on a hot rock and half on the slate bottom of the tank (no substrate). He opened his mouth as a threat and it was very pale pink, almost white inside. He had not lashed his tail at me and then I realized that his stomach and back legs were stuck to the tank floor.

Story from "Green Iguana the Ultimate Owner's Manual" - Used by permission from James W. Hatfield III (author)