Chelonian Emaciation

Body condition

Fig. 1: BCS 1, severe atrophy of the temporalis muscle, visible sagittal crest.

Fig. 2: BCS 2, atrophy of the temporalis muscle, visible sagittal crest.

Fig. 3: BCS 3, slight atrophy of the temporalis muscle, sagittal crest visible.

Fig. 4: BCS 4, no obvious atrophy of the temporalis muscle, sagittal crest not visible, flat appearance to the top of the head.

Fig. 5: BCS 5, developed temporalis muscle itha bi-lobed appearance to the top of the head.

Fig. 6: BCS 6, very well-developed temporalis muscle with an almost rounded appeance to the top of the head.

Fig. 7: BCS 7, subcutaneous fat present in pre-femoral and cervial regions.

Fig. 8: BCS 8, moderate amount of subcutaneous fat pinched between fingers in the axillary region.

Fig. 9: BCS 9, obese animal with large amount of subcutaneous fat especially evident in the cervical and axillary regions.

Sagittal Crest

Restoring fluid and electrolyte balance

SQ/ IC

- 1% body weight @24 hrs for 3 days Normosol and for Aquatic 1-2%

Sub Q

This is just under the skin, between the neck and shoulder. The area has loose skin that allows for the fluids to fill up like a bubble Similar to mammals.

The rear area can be easier to access. Tipping the tortoise to the side helps reducing the risk of accidental puncture of organs.

The rear location is good for softshells and snappers

Via E -Tube

- 1-2 % bodyweight @24 hrs Normosol or reptile electrolyte powder mix

Feeding

- DO NOT OVER FEED! Refeeding syndrome
- Feed no more than 50% of their caloric requirements
- Small volumes of 5-7 ml/kg of diluted feeding formula
- Estimated stomach volume in reptiles to be 2% of bodyweight or 20 ml/kg
- In chelonians is 1% to 2% of bodyweight every 24 hours. May want to start @ 48 in severe cases

Factors that affect a reptile's caloric intake

- **Size:** Larger reptiles eat less, while smaller or juvenile reptiles eat more.
- **Diet:** The type of food a reptile eats affects its caloric intake. For example, proteins and fats contain more calories than vegetables.
- **Activity level**: Reptiles burn calories to move around and keep warm.
- **Stress**: Highly stressed reptiles may need less frequent feedings.