



Determination of oral microbiome in bearded dragons with and without dental disease

Purpose:

The purpose of the study is to determine if there are bacteria and/or fungi that lead to (or protect against) dental disease in bearded dragons.

Clinical Protocol:

The mouth will be opened normally as for a physical exam, and a swab will be collected from the gum line. A picture will be taken for recording purposes and to help grade the dental disease. The swab will be processed for DNA sequencing to determine oral flora (which bacteria and/or fungi are present).

The sample collection will be quick, taking no more than 30 seconds. This should not add any extra time to your appointment with your dragon. Samples will be run at the end of the collection period, which may take several months. You may or may not receive results at the time, but you may request them.

Eligibility:

- All bearded dragons, with or without dental disease, are eligible to participate until the study's required number is reached.

- Exceptions are:
 - o Animals that cannot open their mouth due to severe osteoarthritis of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ or jaw joint).
 - o Animals with severe metabolic bone disease in which opening the jaw may lead to fractures. Animals with rubber jaw will still be included.
 - o Recent antibiotics

Fees for Services:

The study covers the wellness exam, and all costs associated with the processing of the sample, including collection. There are no charges associated with study participation.

For questions or concerns regarding this study, please contact:

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