EVALUATION OF ECG PARAMETERS IN GREEN IGUANAS (*Iguana iguana*)

Thomas F. Koch,[1,5]* Stephen J. Hernandez-Divers, Dipl ACZM, BVetMed, DZooMed, MRCVS,[2] Laura Ridge, DVM,[3] Michael McBride, DVM,[2] Sonia M. Hernandez-Divers, DVM, Dipl ACZM,[2] and David Perpinan, Licenciado en Veterinaria, MSc[4]

[1]Institute for Laboratory Animal Science, University of Aachen, Germany, Pauwelsstr. 30, 52074 Aachen, German; [2]Exotic Animal, Wildlife and Zoological Medicine, Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7390 USA; [3]Cardiology, Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7390 USA [4]Department of Animal Medicine and Surgery, Veterinary College, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Campus Bellaterra. Cerdanyola del Vallès (08193), Barcelona, Spain

[5]Current Address: Tierarztpraxis, Napoleonsberg 176, 52076 Aachen, Germany

ABSTRACT

The research project evaluated standard ECG-parameters in green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*).Ten iguanas were kept in the same room at well-defined conditions concerning temperature, humidity, food and artificial lighting and were of the same weight and body condition. For ECG measurement, the animals were placed in ventral recumbency and blindfolded to keep the animals quiet. The blindfold was loosely placed to avoid vaso-vagal response. Four hypodermal needles were used to make contact. Two needles were positioned directly cranial of the fore legs and the other two needles just caudal to the fore legs on the lateral part of the animal. The needles were attached to the ECG-machine using alligator-clamps. Colored markers were used as in mammals. The animal was left alone sitting on a towel. Then ECG's were measured by a modern ECG machine and printed onto standardized paper. The curves were measured as in mammals and statistically elaborated.

LITERATURE CITED

1. Murray MJ 2006. Cardiology. *In* Mader DR (ed) Reptile Medicine and Surgery. WB Saunders Co, Philadelphia, PA: 181-195.