



# ROUS Foundation

## Case Study 01

### Mudskipper Rous' Pneumonia

This document covers Mudskipper' case of pneumonia from onset to cure. It is not a technical document and does not pretend to advocate treatment or detection of pneumonia in capybaras. It's just an attempt to share experiences with other owners.

Mudskipper, aka Skipper, aka Muddy, was a healthy 3.5-year-old female capybara weighing around 135 lbs. She is a pet living in an indoor/outdoor environment in central Texas. She lives with three cats and some chickens but no other pets.

Around August 15<sup>th</sup> I noticed that Mudskipper was salivating excessively and having trouble eating. It looked as if something was caught in her teeth. Since we had previously had a problem where a piece of hard plastic had gotten caught and this proved to not be a serious problem, I decided to wait to see if it would go away. I checked her mouth and nothing seemed to be in it. It seemed likely that she had been stung in the mouth by a scorpion, which we have plenty of here, while grazing. (link to video of drooling: [https://youtu.be/RkZpaPPV\\_SY](https://youtu.be/RkZpaPPV_SY))

After a couple of days, I became concerned and decided to get a vet to look at her. This was trouble since I cannot drive and she has never been in a car. She went in a horse trailer once to a vet in Austin, but that was not an option at this time. I was finally able to get a mobile vet to come out to look at her on Aust 18<sup>th</sup>. Typically, her symptoms were almost gone by the time of the vet visit.

The vet, Dr. Chris Huddleston, was able to examine her mouth and found no foreign objects or swelling. I also had him check her teeth and, thankfully, he said they look good. But during his examination he found that she had pneumonia. He attributed this to aspiration of saliva from her excessive drooling. He prescribed 2.5 ml of 100 mg/ml Baytril by mouth twice per day.

Although Dr. Huddleston said that Baytril tastes very bitter and is difficult to get animals to take, Mudskipper had no problem with it when it was mixed with her "milk". Her milk is a blend of goat milk replacer, yogurt, Green Goodness smoothie, power greens, at least one fruit, at least

one vegetable, vitamin C, and probiotics. Other items, like tofu, are occasionally added. The milk has a strong flavor that varies each time it is prepared. I think this variation in flavor made her more accepting of the additional taste of the Baytril. (Link to a video showing her drinking her milk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMt11HxY2KA&feature=youtu.be>)

For the next four doses, I made a stupid mistake and gave her only 1.5 ml of Baytril instead of the 2.5 I was supposed to. I'm blaming this on my vision, which is not good. After that I realized my error and she got the correct dose.

During the next few days, her condition deteriorated. She was listless. She would go in the pool but would not swim. She hardly grazed at all. She slept almost all the time. And while she didn't refuse her milk, she drank it slowly and very little at a time. Due to her lack of appetite, it was difficult to get her to take her medicine. I put the medicine in a small amount of milk and presented it to her, usually while she was lying down on the bed. She would take a few slurps and then stop. I'd give her 15 mins or so before trying again. In this way I managed to get most of the medicine into her although it took all day. But I realized that with her blunt nose and underslung mouth, she could not possibly get all of the milk from the bottom of the bowl so I raised the dose to 3.0 mls.

Her condition stabilized but did not noticeably improve. At this point I was really afraid that she was going to die. The vet had said to give her the Baytril for 10 – 14 days. Ten days had already passed and she was no better. I got a second vial of Baytril from the vet and continued her regimen.

She still did not improve. I called the vet and arranged for him to come out Monday, it was Saturday at the time. Amazingly, she improved considerably on Sunday and by Monday morning I was able to cancel the vet appointment. I continued with the Baytril for four more days, for a total of 18 days. At that point she seemed normal and has not had a relapse as of Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>.

She lost 10 lbs, down to 125 lbs, during the course of her illness and has not yet gained that back yet. At least part of this may be because I was gone for a week and a pet sitter took care of her.

I hope this has been helpful. if you have a veterinary story to share, please write to [rousfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:rousfoundation@gmail.com).

