

## EVACC Nutrition Protocol

### Gut loading

All crickets should be kept on high-calcium gut load (8% calcium DM) for 24 - 48 hours prior to feeding to collection animals. Uneaten crickets should be removed from the enclosures after 1 day and replaced with newly gut loaded crickets if needed, to avoid consumption of poor quality prey.

### Dusting

All insects, including gut-loaded crickets, should be dusted with Rep-Cal Ultrafine calcium and vitamin D powder and Reptivite vitamin powder on an alternating basis, immediately prior to feeding. Results will be most reliable if a regular schedule is established so that only the calcium powder is used for one feeding and only the vitamin powder is used for the next, and so on. Mixing the supplements together will yield inconsistent amounts of each per feeding.

Vitamin powder should be replaced every 6 months.

### Ultraviolet radiation

All juvenile animals should be provided with a UV-B spectrum light for at least 20 minutes daily. UV-B exposure may also benefit health of adults.

### Critical care

All juveniles, thin animals, or sick animals, should be offered food daily. Sick animals that are not eating should be tube fed with Emeraid Carnivore elemental diet approximately every 5 days (depending on the animals' size).

- Tube feeding protocol: Mix Emeraid Carnivore powder with hot water according to package directions. Volume should be determined by a rough estimate of the animals' stomach capacity. Underestimating volume is much safer than overestimating volume and possibly distending the stomach.
- NOTE: *This procedure should only be done by individuals that have received proper training from a veterinarian. Performing this procedure without training can result in serious injury or death to the animal.*