**SCIENCE OF SLOTHS**

**Case Information**

**Case reference name: ‘Riley’**

**Name/position of contact:** Dr Kimberlee Wojick and Jen Hennessy

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Hennessy, Jennifer <jhennessy@rwpzoo.org>
Wojick, Kimberlee <kwojick@rwpzoo.org>

**Initial date of contact:** 6/9/2021 by ddial email

**Contact information: see above**

Roger Williams Park Zoo

**Age (if known):**  24 year old male

**List all known diet items:** see below

**Under veterinarian care, if so who?** Yes, Above Roger Williams Park Zoo

**Chief complaint/reason of case review:**

**\*\***worried about low weight post injury recovery\*

Hi Deb,

I hope you are well.  I have a question regarding our 24-year-old male sloth Riley.  Our younger sloths have all transitioned to the diet recommended by the PAX TAG very well.  I am having trouble with Riley accepting the new diet.  He does not seem to like the pepper, cucumber, and leaves the majority (sometimes all) of the lettuce and browse.  He does like, butternut squash, yam and zucchini.  He also loves egg.  He is just starting to accept the leaf eater pellets.  He was on canned primate before.  He is the individual that broke his tooth a few years ago.  I am not sure if this is related but some food items get caught on the roof of his mouth.  The leaf eater biscuits do it the most.  I have also noticed he seems to struggle to bite off the leaves from sticks of browse that are firmly attached to perching.  You can see wet chewed on leaved left still attached to the browse branch.  I have started making a “quiche”  mixing 4 leaf eater pellets with one egg and microwaving it.  He receives ¼ of this “quiche” daily.  He really likes it and it does not stick to the roof of this mouth.  I will use the quiche to pair with lettuce to get him to eat small amounts of the leafy greens.

Riley had an accident last year that involved his rear leg.  He has since healed from the accident physically but had lost a lot of weight.  His average weight was mostly 11-12 kg and he is hovering around 9 Kg since last year.

I am wondering if you can advise us on the best diet strategy for Riley.  As always thank you so much for your help!

Jen

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Thanks Deb!  Riley is such a good boy.  You might be right, this could be his new normal weight.  I think I should clarify he has not gained back the weight he lost after his accident and now I am just extra concerned he is not accepting the diet change like our other sloths have.  He has always been an on again off again eater.  He will eat terrific one day and then refuse most things we offer the next.  He does like his fruit too, mango, apple, pea, grapes, strawberries, and blueberries.  He gets fruit in limited quantities. His feces has always looked really good.  He will eat all the items I listed that are offered to him, but he leaves the peppers, cucumbers, green beans, and almost all of the greens.  I would say he seems satiated, but if he will try very hard to get food items that are not his like the tamarin canned marmoset.  ( he was a fan of the canned primate )

I guess my main question is is it ok to offer him mostly starchy produce since he really likes yam, butternut squash and corn ( he does like zucchini too).  The PAX recommended diet doesn’t list these items.  I will also continue to really try to get him to eat his leafeater biscuits.  I will try dipping them in juice to see if that helps.  Do you think more than 5 grams of egg a day would be ok?  Currently he receives around 5 grams of egg and the equivalent of 1 biscuit in his “quiche”.

Please share away with whoever you feel could be helpful. I would really appreciate it.  Thanks so much!  Jen

**Documents attached?**

**Service provided?**

**Outcome:**