

Rat 'dinner' attacks pet snake

PRETORIA: The food chain was temporarily disrupted when a rat refused to be eaten and instead attacked the snake that planned to eat it for dinner.

The young 1.5m boa constrictor was clearly feeling sorry for itself while it was being treated at the Bird and Exotic Animal Hospital at the University of Pretoria Faculty of Veterinary Science, yesterday.

The snake was bitten eight to 10 times. Some of the wounds were so deep that its vertebrae were visible.

Veterinarian Dr Dorianne Elliot said that incidents such as this occurred when snake owners put live rats in the reptiles' quarters before they were hungry.

This rat decided not to wait to become dinner and attacked instead.

The rat escaped with its life. Its whereabouts are unknown. — *Mercury Correspondent*

