



Ball Python

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FUN FACT!

Ball pythons are the perfect snakes for anyone who likes the look of a python without the normally massive size. Ball pythons average only 4 feet in size, but can get up to 6ft unlike their larger python cousins that make it up well over 20 feet in some cases! This makes them a great pet as they will always be easy to handle and will never need anything larger than a medium or large rat to eat.



General Diet

Snakes are carnivores, which mean they eat meat. Ball pythons can eat mice & Rats, and some willingly will eat frozen that are available commercially. Frozen is recommended, but Ball Pythons can be finicky. The prey size should be the correct size for the snake and never too big. (See/ask for snake feeding sheet)



Vitamins/Supplements

Housing

Ball pythons stay small, so a 20-30 gallon tank will work well when it is younger, but you should upgrade to a 75 Gallon Tank when it gets large enough. A full screen cover should be used on top of the aquarium and use clamps to make sure it is secure. Snakes are very strong and can push up on the screen. You will need 2 light systems.

One to give an ambient temperature for heat.

The second light system is for basking. Reptiles are ectotherms, which means they get their heat from an outside source, unlike humans. Different areas of the habitat should be at different temperatures, so reptiles can move around to heat up or cool off. Pythons are comfortable with a daytime temperature in their habitat of 84-88 degrees, and a nighttime temperature of 70-75. Use a ceramic reflector or daylight heat bulb in a heat lamp during the day to keep the temperature up in their habitat. Do not use hot rocks with Ball pythons.

Ball pythons like high humidity, so mist the habitat daily if needed. Shallow water containers help keep humidity up, and pythons like to bathe sometimes, so a water bowl or tray large enough for them to get in and out of easily should be offered constantly. Some low branches that they may climb can be used in the habitat.

Sanitation/General Care

Change the water as needed, usually three to five times a week. The litter or substrate used on the bottom should be cleaned as often as needed, and this will depend on habitat size and your pet's size, but should be done at least 1 times a month. When cleaning dishes or the cage use a bleach/water solution 1part bleach to 16 parts water and let set at least 20min to properly sterilize the cage and dish. Rinse the cage well, dry, and then add fresh bedding. For water dish, wash in hot soapy water after sitting in bleach rinse well and place back in cage.

General Maintenance

Mist the habitat twice daily if needed, depending on how dry the air is in your area and time of year. Reptiles will shed their skin periodically. Mist them lightly at these times to help them shed the skin more easily, and be sure a large water container is available. Be sure the habitat is always at the right temperature.



Health Care

Pythons are generally very hardy and healthy when kept in the right conditions. Have them checked by a reptile veterinarian only if needed due to sickness or injury. If they stop eating for a long period of time, as Ball pythons might do, have them checked out to be sure there are no health concerns.

Special Section



Reptiles can carry one disease that can be transmitted to people called salmonellosis. It is always important to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after you have handled your pet or anything in your pet's cage. Keep your pet out of the kitchen area and do not allow very small children to handle any reptiles.

SUPPLIES CHECKLIST

Daylight Heat Bulb	Hygrometer
Lower wattage night bulb	
Branches for climbing	
Moss	
Fish tank with screen cover	
Large water dish	
Reptile litter	
Thermometer	



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