



Western Hog-nosed Snake

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General Diet

Snakes are carnivores, which means they eat meat. Western hog-nosed snakes can eat mice. Most willingly eat frozen/thawed mice that are available commercially. The prey items should always be the correct size for the snake and never too big. Juveniles will eat two or three times a week, but adults will eat once or twice a week. It is recommended to feed in a separate tank so that your snake doesn't associate your hand or the habitat being opened with feeding. It will also help keep your snakes home clean.

FUN FACT!

Western Hog-nosed snakes are named for their upturned snout. They aren't known for climbing, but instead love to burrow. Western hog-nosed snakes will sometimes flatten out their neck to look larger and more aggressive to predators. They've also been known to play dead. The western hog-nosed snake can reach 1 1/2 to 3 feet long and can live 15 years if cared for properly. As snakes get ready to shed, eyes will turn milky blue/grey and the body will develop a whitish sheen. At this time, they may become irritable and appetite may vary.



Vitamins/Supplements

Housing

Western hog-nosed snakes can start out in a 5 gallon tank and can be upgraded to a 20 gallon or larger, later. A full cover should be used on top of a tank, with clamps. The western hog-nosed snake does best in substrates like shredded aspen, as they do not require much humidity.

Daytime temperature should be 85 to 90 degrees on the warm end and 75 to 80 degrees on the cool end. Nighttime temperatures of 65 to 70 degrees are sufficient. A day bulb can be used as a primary heat source and an under tank heater as a secondary source. They do not need UVB. You will want low humidity to allow snake to shed properly. Provide a snake cave to give them a place to hide. Sphagnum moss can be used in the cave to help with shedding.

A heavier water dish is recommended as the western hog-nosed likes to burrow

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.

General Maintenance

Mist the habitat once a day, lightly, 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 at all times.



Health Care

Western hog-nosed snakes are generally very hardy and healthy when kept in the right conditions.

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

Aquarium	Reptile Substrate
Screen Cover	Hide
Screen Clips	Thermometer
Heat Lamp with day Bulb	Humidity Gauge
Water Dish	
Under Tank Heater	
Decorations for Hiding	



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