



Ball Python

(python regius)

Facts:

Average adult size: **4 to 5 inches long**

Average life span: **up to 30 years with proper care**

Diet: **Carnivore**



Ball pythons are named for their habit of curling themselves up into a tight ball.

Will reach adult size in 3 years, under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your snake grows.

Feeding & Nutrition:

Diet

- Appropriately sized frozen rodents, thawed/warmed to above room temperature.
- Do not use a microwave to defrost frozen rodents and do not prepare them in the same area that you prepare food. If it is unavoidable, be sure to thoroughly disinfect the area.
- If feeding your snake live rodents, do not leave them unattended. Live rodents can injure the snake, sometimes fatally.

Feeding

- Feed juveniles once a week, adults every one to two weeks.
- Feed in a separate tank so that your snake doesn't associate your hand or the habitat being opened with feeding.
- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times in a large enough bowl for your ball python to soak in.

Housing:

- **Size** - Appropriately sized and shaped habitat for a baby ball python to accommodate normal behavior and exercise, at least a 20L. A 40B tank is recommended for an adult ball python.
- **Substrate** - Aspen shavings, mulch-type such as coconut fiber bedding or reptile bark; dampened sphagnum moss.
- **Habitat** - Provide a hiding area just large enough for your snake to fit inside and a branch or décor to climb on. Maintain 40 to 60% humidity; higher during shedding.
- **Temperature** - Temperature gradient (95°F for the warm end and 78° for the cool end); recommend radiant heat.
- **Lighting** - Provide 8 to 12 hours of light daily. Don't leave white light on at all times; a nocturnal or infrared light should be used at night.
- **Do not house different snake species together.**

Habitat Maintenance

- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the habitat at least once a week: place snake in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all traces of bleach smell; dry the tank and furnishings completely and add clean substrate.

Note: The information in this Care Guide is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

Care Guide



Care:

Grooming & Hygiene

- Snakes will regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is at appropriate level to allow snake to shed properly.
- Never try to remove eye caps by yourself. Seek veterinary care.

Health

- Active and alert
- Clear eyes (except when shedding)
- Eats regularly
- Healthy skin
- Regularly sheds skin in one complete piece
- Free of mites and ticks

Normal Behavior

- As your snake gets ready to shed, their eyes will turn a milky blue/grey over the course of a few days and their body color will start to dull and develop a whitish sheen. May become irritable; avoid handling if possible.
- Appetite may vary.
- Handling a snake too soon after eating can induce regurgitation and is not recommended for at least 2 days. It takes approximately 4 to 6 days to completely digest food depending on the size of the prey and the temperature it is in.

Recommended Supplies:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Size Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing Decor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Under Tank Heater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moss | <input type="checkbox"/> Humidity Gauge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Dish | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hide | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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