



General Information

The Ball Python is perfect for folks seeking a beginner snake. Generally calm, slowmoving, and very reluctant to bite.

<u>Housing</u>

Hatchlings should start off in a minimum size of a 20 gallon "long" terrarium or (30"x12") while adults (depending upon their size) should be kept in at least a 40 gallon breeder terrarium (36"x18"). The screen top should be secured with clips or locks as they are amazingly strong, even by snake standards. Ball pythons may be kept on cypress mulch or something similar that will help keep the humidity level at an ideal range.

Temperatures should range from a basking spot of 92 degrees and should not go lower than 75 at night. Provide your pet with the largest home possible, so that a thermal gradient (areas of different temperatures that allow the snake to regulate its metabolism) can be established. You can reach the desired temperatures with "Basking Spotlight" Heat bulbs (during the day) as well as Reptile Heat Pads 24/7 (with a thermostat) on the same side as the light. The heat pad provides a warm spot at night and helps the snake digest its food. Always keep a thermometer in the terrarium to make sure the temperatures are correct.

Humidity should be ideally between 50-60% and this can be accomplished by misting the enclosure daily and occasionally saturating the bedding. If your snake is having difficulty shedding or is shedding in pieces, provide a cave filled with damp sphagnum moss.

CARE SHEET: BALL PYTHONS (Python regius)

<u>Diet</u>

Ball Pythons can be picky feeders at times, due to their timid nature and low activity level. New owners are often dismayed by the Ball Python's habit of fasting for long periods of time. Ball Pythons are very efficient eaters and use such a small amount of energy that they simply do not need very much food. We have personally seen an adult Ball Python go 17 MONTHS without a meal and it was perfectly fine and healthy. It simply did not need more food.

We strongly recommend feeding frozen rodents due to the fact that live rodents can fight back and harm the snake. Rarely, some baby snakes will refuse frozen food and need to take live to start. Not to worry, they will switch over to frozen very soon after.

The rodent should be roughly the same width as the thickest part of the snake's body, or even slightly larger. Baby Ball Pythons typically start by eating Small Adult Mice or "Hoppers" and will rarely need anything larger than a Medium Adult Rat at full size.

Cleaning and Handling

The terrarium should be cleaned as necessary. Any fecal matter or uneaten food should be removed daily. The substrate should be completely changed roughly once each month. The inside of the terrarium can be scrubbed with an appropriate reptile cage cleaner.

Ball Pythons tolerate gentle handling well, but like all reptiles, they can bite when threatened; the snake's head should not be allowed near anyone's face. Always wash your hands after handling any animal. The defense strategy of coiling into a ball should not be induced, as this indicates a high level of stress. Be sure to be gentle and make the snake feel secure. Don't handle it during the shedding process or within 48 hours of feeding.

Please contact us directly with any other questions!

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