



Jungle Bob's Care Sheet

Speckled King Snake

(*Lampropeltis getula holbrooki*)

General Information

The hardy Speckled Kingsnake is an ideal pet for those new to the keeping of moderately-sized constrictors. With proper care, pets may exceed 20 years of age.

The Speckled Kingsnake ranges from southern Illinois to eastern Texas and Alabama, where it may be found in open woodlands, fields, brushy swamps, and farm outbuildings.

Adults average 3 - 4 feet in length. The black dorsal scales are heavily flecked with white, yellow, or light orange spots.



Housing

A 30-40 gallon aquarium makes a good home for a single adult. The tank's screen lid must be secured by cage clips.

Temperatures should range from 75-80 F, with a basking site of 85-90 F. 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 [Jungle Bob's Basking](#) and [Night Spot Bulbs](#). Reptile [Heat Pads](#) are also useful for creating basking sites, and as a night-time heat source. A great way to determine if your terrarium is at the correct temperature is to use the [Zoo Med Digital Terrarium Thermometer](#). The tank may be misted lightly on occasion, but otherwise should remain dry.

Speckled King Snakes are best housed on aspen, [eucalyptus mulch](#), [pine bark](#) or a similar substrate that allows for burrowing. A [terrarium liner](#), with a reptile cave for shelter, may also be employed.

Diet

King snakes feed on pinkie and fuzzy mice as babies and juveniles. As your snake grows it will soon move up to adult mice and small rats. We recommend that you feed baby and juvenile king snakes one time per week. Adult king snakes can be fed once every 7-10 days to maintain proper body weight. Like most snakes, king snakes typically will not eat when they are preparing to shed. Rodents can injure or kill your snake and should, therefore, be purchased frozen rather than live.

Cleaning and Handling

The terrarium should be cleaned as necessary. Any fecal matter or uneaten food should be removed daily. A [Reptile Scoop](#) will simplify this task. The substrate should be completely changed once each month. The inside of the terrarium can be scrubbed with an appropriate reptile cage cleaner; we recommend [Natural Chemistry's Healthy Habitat](#).

Speckled Kingsnakes tolerate geneucalyptus mulchtle handling well, but like all reptiles they can bite when threatened; the snake's head should not be allowed near one's face. Always wash your hands before and after handling any animal.

Fun Fact

Although generally docile, Speckled Kingsnakes have the un-nerving habit of sometimes attempting an "experimental" bite upon the hand that holds them. This is easily avoided, as they rub their snouts against the area to be "sampled" beforehand. Moving their head away from the chosen spot usually diverts their "interest".

Jungle Bob's Reptile World

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