

Jungle Carpet Pythons

Morelia spilota cheynei

Introduction and Origin

The smallest of all Carpet Pythons the Jungle Carpet Python grows to around 1.4 metres. It inhabits the wet tropical rain forests in the Atherton tablelands of Northern Queensland. It has no reason to grow any larger as the Scrub Python is the only

other python that the Jungle Carpet shares the rainforest with, and the Scrub Python eats all the larger prey. The Jungle Carpet Python is known for its spectacular colouring which consists of bright yellow and black striping (and very rarely white and black striping).

These are possibly the most beautiful of all the so-called carpet pythons

Licensing

In New South Wales, Jungle Carpet Pythons are required to be kept under a reptile keeper's licence. The licence is easily obtainable by phoning National Parks and Wildlife on (02) 9585-6406 or by picking up an application form Kellyville Pets. It is presently law in New South Wales to have a licence, without it, it is impossible to gain an animal legally.

Diet and Water

Jungle Pythons will eat mice and rats (depending on size), one of either once a week is sufficient. All pythons should be weaned onto frozen food as soon as possible, dusting the mouse or rat with reptile calcium or vitamins every feed will ensure your python is getting the essential vitamins and minerals it requires. They will also require a bowl of water for drinking



Housing

Enclosure: An adult Jungle Python should be housed in an enclosure no less than 3ft long, 3ft high and 1ft deep. Jungles are highly arboreal (tree dwelling), so lots of climbing branches are needed. Plastic plants and vines can also be used. A hide cave should be placed at the hot end of the enclosure as a place for the Jungle to feel safe and to hide in if it feels threatened. A large water bowl should be placed in the cool end of the enclosure and it should be big enough so that the Jungle Python can completely submerge itself. Fresh water should be given every 2 days. A paper based substrate such as Breeders Choice is ideal due to its dryness and ease of cleaning.

Heating

Jungle Pythons prefer a temperature gradient of 26-32 degrees with some humidity so it is important to spray or mist the enclosure once or twice a day. Heating the enclosure can be achieved

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with either a ceramic heat emitter or an infrared heat globe. The heat source should be connected to a thermostat so that the desired temperature can be maintained at all times. The Thermostat probe should be placed in the centre of the enclosure with a thermometer under it, to allow the temperature to be set correctly. This ensures your python will not overheat, which can result in heat exhaustion or even death.

Learn more from the team at Kellyville Pets

Lighting

It is very important to provide your python with UVA and UVB to help with daily activity and digestion. UV light tubes are the best way of doing this, with a reptile specific UV light such as a Reptiglo 5.0 being perfect. The UV light needs to be illuminated for 12-14 hours a day, so it is recommended to use a 24 hour timer.

Tank Decoration

Jungle Carpet Pythons are a large species that frequent the trees in nature. For this reason the inclusion of sturdy branches, vines and logs in their enclosures will make them feel more at home. A strong branch or log should be placed directly under the heat source to give the python a place to bask and gain heat.

The inclusion of a hide box or hollow log in the enclosure is recommended as this allows the animal to have a safe place in which to rest through the daylight hours.

There are a variety of different substrates that are available to cover the base of the enclosure. These include Desert Blend (crushed walnut shells) and Oz Pet. Each of these substrates are well suited for use in a python enclosure as they are easily cleaned and provide a dry, healthy environment.



Further information on diet, hygiene, vitamins, Vets and much more is available from the team at Kellyville Pets.

At Kellyville Pets, we encourage responsible pet ownership.

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