



Children's Python.

Antaresia childreni

Spotted Python.

Antaresia maculosa

Lifespan: 20+ years

Size: Approximately 1m

Enclosure: Minimum 90 x 45 x 60cm

Diet: Frozen mice, rats and quails

Care Level: Low



Enclosure.

The *Antaresia* genus which includes children's, spotted, stimsons and pygmy pythons are amongst the smallest python species in the world.

Being mainly terrestrial (ground dwelling), adult *Antaresia* pythons require an enclosure with adequate floor space, however they will climb if given the opportunity. For one adult children's or spotted python an enclosure of 90 x 45 x 60cm is recommended. Hatchling pythons should be kept in a smaller enclosure for their first 10-12 months. It is important that the enclosure has sufficient ventilation and a secure, lockable door.

The enclosure can be furnished to re-create the animals natural environment including the use of a background, artificial plants, rock ornaments and timber branches for climbing and basking. An absorbent substrate is also important such as coco fibre, aspen or kitty litter.

Maintenance.

Pythons have a very specific set of requirements in regards to general care, however if all of these elements are provided they are relatively low maintenance to keep.

Providing adequate temperature gradients within a python's enclosure is essential for their health and wellbeing. Children's and spotted pythons require a basking spot maintained between 32-35°C and a cool end of 22-26°C during the day. Night time temperatures should not drop below 18°C. Temperatures should be checked daily and must be regulated with the use of a good quality thermostat. Recommended sources of heat include the use of incandescent, halogen or ceramic globes as well as heat mats and heat cords.

Being primarily nocturnal species, pythons do not require strong UV light like other species of reptiles do. There are a number of positive benefits to a python's health by providing them with UV lighting. A 5.0 UVB tube or compact globe is an ideal source of artificial UV light.

Pythons require a 'day and night' cycle with heat lights running for approximately 10-12 hours and UVB lights 4-6 hours each day. Pythons also benefit from short periods of access to unfiltered, natural light outdoors.

It is important to maintain high standards of cleanliness and hygiene within the python's enclosure. Daily 'spot checks' should be carried out and any faeces, shed skin or uneaten food removed immediately. A full substrate change should be carried out every 6-8 weeks (depending on what substrate is used) and the enclosure thoroughly cleaned with a reptile-safe disinfectant.



Did you know

all native reptiles are protected in NSW and a Reptile Keeper's licence must be obtained from the Office of Environment and Heritage to own one as a pet.

You can apply for a licence online, or our specialist reptile staff would be more than happy to assist you in applying for your licence in-store.

Diet.

In the wild, pythons will prey upon a variety of different animals including rodents, birds and even bats. They are opportunistic, ambush predators and will eat whenever food is available.

In captivity, they can be fed on a range of different foods depending on their age and size. Readily available python foods at Kellyville Pets include commercially bred frozen mice, rats and quail.

A juvenile python should be fed an appropriately sized rat or mouse once every 7-10 days, approximately. Adult children's and spotted pythons can be fed a large mouse or small rat every 2-4 weeks. Food items must be completely thawed and warmed up (place in hot water) before being offered to the snake.

Some keepers may choose to feed captive pythons in a designated 'feeding' tub, separate to their normal enclosure. Live rodents should never be offered to a python as this poses many potential risks to the snake.

It is also good practice to keep a record book of when a python eats, what sized food item it takes as

well as when it sheds its skin. Fresh water should also be available to the python at all times and changed regularly.

 Pet Education.

Thinking about getting a python as a pet?

We'll teach you everything you need to know from setting up your enclosure, feeding and caring for your python.

Over 2 hours | All online | Lifetime access



Common Health Issues.

Mites: Reptile mites cause significant irritation to pythons. A python may submerge itself in its water bowl if it is infested with mites.

Dysecdysis (abnormal shedding): Low humidity levels can sometimes result in a python having an 'incomplete' shed.

Respiratory Infection: A bacterial or viral infection that may be caused by incorrect temperature, inadequate ventilation or too much humidity.

Red Flags.

If you notice any of the following symptoms, please contact your vet.

- Loss of appetite • Consistently submerging in water bowl • Wheezing sound when breathing
- Fluid or discharge from mouth or nostrils • Diarrhoea

Essentials.

Products required to care for your children's/spotted python:

Enclosure (min. 90 x 45 x 60cm)
Water bowl
Hide
Substrate
Basking log
Background
Artificial plants

Heat fitting and globe
UV fitting and globe
Thermostat
Thermometer
Timer
Reptile disinfectant

Frozen food
Feeding tongs
Feeding enclosure



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