

PYTHONS

The ultimate exotic pet!

All Australian reptiles are protected species in Australia. To keep one as a pet in NSW you will need a reptile licence.

Pythons are a family of non-venomous snakes with species found throughout Australia, Africa & Asia. Some of the largest snakes in the world make up this family & there 8 genera & 26 species that are currently recognised. 21 species of pythons are found in Australia.

Pythons can live for up to 40 - 50 years in captivity. This should always be taken into account when considering keeping one as a pet.

Hatchling & juvenile pythons are timid animals & to reduce stress should initially be housed in a small enclosure (no bigger than 300 x 300 x 150mm). An enclosure with covered sides & low light helps the babies to remain comfortable & stress free.



The size enclosure for an adult python will depend on the animal's eventual size & whether it is an arboreal species (lives in trees) or a ground dwelling species. Glass enclosures are more attractive but timber enclosures are more heat efficient. Your adult snake may also benefit from the addition of UV lighting.

The base of the enclosure should be covered with a litter which can include paper or wood based litters. The litter should be spot cleaned regularly & completely changed every month.

The décor in the enclosure should include a hide & other appropriate items. Collecting branches & rocks from wild sources should be avoided as it can lead to the introduction of mites or other parasites. A reptile safe cleaner should be used when disinfecting the enclosure.

Pythons, like all reptiles are ectotherms, meaning they heat up from the outside in!

Heating- Heatpads or heatcords are ideal for hatchling & baby pythons. The heat area should cover approximately 50% of the floor of the enclosure. Depending on the species & the enclosure size adult pythons, may require both a heat mat or cord & also a heat lamp. A thermostat should be used to control the heating in all enclosures no matter the age of the animal to ensure that they do not overheat.

A thermometer should also be used so you identify the actual temperature in the enclosure.

