



4921 Skyline Way N.E.  
 Calgary, Alberta T2E 4G5  
 Phone: (403) 274-3314 Fax: (403) 275-6296  
[www.piscespets.com](http://www.piscespets.com)  
 Email: [pisces@piscespets.com](mailto:pisces@piscespets.com)



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

## Carpet Python

*Morelia spilota* species

**Lifespan:** 30 years

**Size:** Adults can reach 6 to 12 feet in length, depending on species.

**Sexing:** There are four different methods of sexing snakes: comparing tail lengths, popping, and probing. An experienced veterinarian or breeder should do popping or probing.

**Enclosure:** Carpet pythons do best in a tank that provides them with room to roam around and exercise. A 4x2x2 PVC enclosure will last some time (depending on species), but a much larger tank is needed for an adult. For a baby/young juvenile, a standard 24x18x24 tank with screen top is ideal. Snakes can escape from regular screen tops, so the lid needs to be secured with a lock or a heavy object on the top of the tank. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra All-Glass Terrariums and Eco Flex Reptile lounges. As well as large Marineland glass tanks for larger adults***

**Hiding/Climbing Spots:** A snake cave or another hiding spot should be provided. Carpet pythons love to climb so lots of branches and tree like spots should be provided. These snakes can get bored so exercise and lots of decor is recommended.

**Humidity:** The enclosure should be well ventilated and misted to keep the humidity between 40% to 65% and to aid the process of shedding, and to maintain good health. A humid hide with moss helps maintain humidity when the snake is shedding. Use a digital hygrometer to maintain a consistent humidity level. Provide a water dish large enough for the snake to curl its entire body into for bathing and to help with shedding. Provide fresh water every day.

**Substrate:** You can use Cyprus mulch or wood chips designed for snakes to maintain a good humidity level or add a moss hide to the tank. ***Pisces recommends: Zoomed Forest Floor mixed with Zoomed reptisoil or Exo terra plantation soil***

**Heat:** Maintain a temperature of as low as 22-24°C at night to 24-26°C during the day (75°F to 80°F, with a basking spot of 90-97°F). Snakes cannot sustain all bodily functions if kept at a constant cooler or hot temperature. Use a heat bulb on one end of the tank to create a temperature gradient and to allow the snake to get away from the heat source when it wants to. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra and Arcadia bulbs and fixtures.***

**UV Lighting:** Use of a full spectrum T5 UVB is recommended as it has shown to be beneficial but since the snakes are nocturnal it is not needed. UVB bulbs lose effectiveness over time and need to be replaced every 8-12 months. ***Pisces Recommends: Arcadia T5 Pro D3+ 6% UVB Kit***

**Feeding:** Feed juveniles about once a week. Adults will eat about every two weeks, but most will eat weekly. Snakes will eat live or frozen thawed prey but frozen thawed is recommended in captivity. (Be sure that the food is thoroughly thawed before offering it to your snake). Do not feed prey larger than the maximum girth of the snake. Repashy Calcium Plus LoD can be given occasionally to provide supplementary vitamins

**Handling:** When handling a baby or juvenile carpet python it is best to pick them up slowly but confidently. If you hesitate or are nervous the snake might be frightened and potentially bite. Carpet pythons are generally docile but can behave aggressively if they feel threatened. If this happens when you are handling your snake, return it to its tank immediately. Avoid touching the snake's head until it is comfortable with you.

**Safe Handling of Reptiles\*:** As with all living creatures, reptiles can carry microorganisms (including Salmonella) which can make people ill. To reduce the chances of infection, always follow these safe handling steps:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet, its food and anything it has touched.
- Keep your pet in a habitat designed for it; do not let your pet reptile roam around the home without proper supervision.
- Keep your pet, its food dishes and cage components out of the kitchen.
- Don't nuzzle or kiss your pet.
- Infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a compromised immune system have a greater risk of infection. Extra caution should be taken when they are in contact with any animal. Children under 5 should handle reptiles only under adult/parent supervision.

**Your New Pet:** It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet's health and to prevent illness. Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you, but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat. A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.

### **Pisces Recommended Setup:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Glass/PVC terrarium (Exo Terra 24x28x24 or EcoFlex 3x2x2 PVC reptile lounge)</li> <li>❑ Exo terra hiding cave (2 are recommended so one can be a humid hide)</li> <li>❑ Exo Terra Misting bottle</li> <li>❑ Exo Terra/Zoomed or Pet-Tekk water dish (large enough to soak entire body)</li> <li>❑ Jurassic Leaf Litter</li> <li>❑ Jurassic sphagnum moss or terrarium moss for added humidity</li> <li>❑ Exo terra branches and Jungle Vines for climbing</li> <li>❑ NewCal Pet cork branches</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Jurassic/Zoomed cork flats for added hiding places</li> <li>❑ Exo Terra metal feeder tongs</li> <li>❑ Snake hook (if more aggressive)</li> <li>❑ Zoomed Forest floor and Reptisoil mix as substrate</li> <li>❑ Exo Terra 150w Intense Basking Spot Lamp &amp; Flukers 8.5in Dimmable Deluxe Clamp Lamp</li> <li>❑ Arcadia T5 Pro D3+ 6% UVB kit</li> <li>❑ Repashy Calcium Plus LoD</li> <li>❑ Feeder mice/rats (size dependent)</li> <li>❑ Exo Terra digital thermometer and hydrometer or combometer</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

*\*Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*