

# SNAKE

# BUYING GUIDE

New Friend	Best Parents	Habitat	Bedding	Food	Did You Know?	Accessories I Love
<b>Corn Snake</b>	Age 5 and up	Escape proof enclosure, 40 gallon, with two temperature zones. 80-85 F and 75-80F. Basking heat light and heat pad or ceramic heat emitter. UVA/UVB light beneficial for health. 40 - 50% humidity	3-4 inches or more of aspen, coconut fiber, and Cypress. Reptile soil. An ideal mix: 40% Organic Topsoil + 40% ReptiSoil + 20% Play Sand. Never use pine or cedar shavings.	Mice and pre-weaned rats no larger than the largest diameter of the snake. Previously frozen is ideal - thaw mice in a plastic bag in warm water until warm. Large water bowl to soak in, with daily fresh, dechlorinated water.	Corn snakes can grow to 5 feet. Corn snakes are smart, calm, docile, and rarely bite, unless provoked. A wide variety of interesting colors and patterns are available. Live 6 - 8 years.	Places to hide; under a rock, tree limb or other. A tall branch to climb on. Thermometers to monitor the hot & cold ends. A timer to turn off the heat lamp at night. Humidity box. Hygrometer to monitor humidity.
<b>King/Milk Snake</b>	Ages 5 and up	Escape proof enclosure, 40 gallon, with two temperature zones: 85 to 90 F and 70- 80F. As low as 70F at night. UVB light beneficial for health. 40 - 60% humidity	Reptile carpet, Astroturf, 3" of mulch, aspen shavings, reptile bark, reptile specific paper bedding. Never use pine or cedar shavings.	Mice and pre-weaned rats no larger than the largest diameter of the snake. Previously frozen is ideal - thaw mice in a plastic bag in warm water until warm. Large water bowl to soak in, with daily fresh, dechlorinated water.	A constrictor but will not harm. Generally docile but some can bite when held for too long. They also expel harmless, but smelly musk from the anus as a defense mechanism. King snakes come in a wide range of beautiful colors and can grow to 7 feet. Live 10 - 15 years.	Places to hide in both temp zones; bark, rock hides, overturned pots, half a coconut shell, cardboard box. Branches. Humidity box. Thermometers to monitor the hot & cold ends. A timer to turn off the heat lamp at night. Hygrometer to measure humidity.
<b>Ball Python</b>	Age 5 and up	Escape proof enclosure, 40 gallon, basking spot 88 - 96F. Air temps 78 - 80F. Nights 70-78F. UVB light beneficial for health. 50 - 60% humidity - higher during shedding (also damp paper towel in hide box)	Carpet, ground coconut husk, reptile specific wood shavings, shredded paper or newspaper. Avoid anything drying or dusty like cat litter or sand. Never use pine or cedar shavings.	Mice and rats no larger than the largest diameter of the snake. Previously frozen is ideal - thaw mice in a plastic bag in warm water until warm. Large water bowl to soak in, with daily fresh, dechlorinated water.	Ball pythons are very shy and docile. They can be finicky feeders and can refuse to eat if their enclosure temp is off or humidity is not correct. They can grow to 5 feet in length. Many unique color patterns are available. Live 20 - 30 years.	Multiple places to burrow and hide; under a rock, tree limb, hide box, clay pot, or other. A rock to absorb the basking light heat. A clean stick to climb on. Thermometers to monitor the hot & cold ends. A timer to turn off the lighting at night. An under-tank heater.
<b>Rosy Boa</b>	Age 5 and up	Escape proof enclosure, 25 gallon, with basking spot of 85-90F. Air temps of gradient of 70-85 degrees F. Large enough for the snake to be in one temp area or another. 50% or less humidity	1-2 inches for burrowing of ground coconut husk, aspen, cypress, reptile specific wood shavings, shredded paper or newspaper. Avoid anything drying or dusty like cat litter or sand. Never use pine or cedar shavings.	Small and pre-weaned mice no larger than the largest diameter of the snake. Previously frozen is ideal - thaw mice in a plastic bag in warm water until warm. A water dish / pool with fresh, dechlorinated water offered daily.	Rosy boas are from the desert. They are calm and adjust to handling very well. Gentle handling allows them to explore your hands and arms. Once they trust you, they enjoy being handled. They grow to 2 - 4 feet in length. Live to 20+ years	Two places to hide in the warm and cool end of habitat. Hides could be between rocks, a cave, or other. Something to climb. Thermometers to monitor the hot & cold ends. A timer to turn off the heat lamp at night. An under-tank heater insulated above with felt or reptile carpet.
<b>Sand Boa</b>	Age 5 and up	Escape proof enclosure, 20 gallon, with a heat source from below. A hotspot at one end at 95F. A cool end around 80F by day and 70F by night. Air temperature gradient of 75 - 95 F. Low humidity. High humidity during shedding.	For burrowing, play sand, aspen, or coconut mulch or a mixture of both, newspaper. Mist 2-4 times per month. (Sand Boas spend much of their time under the sand waiting for prey.) Avoid anything drying or dusty like cat litter. Never use pine or cedar shavings.	Mice no larger than the largest diameter of the snake. Previously frozen is ideal - thaw mice in a plastic bag in warm water until warm. Sand Boas will frequently require live prey. Fresh, dechlorinated water available in enclosure.	Sand boas spend most of their lives under the sand. They are quite docile. Frequent handling is ok. Females will grow to between 26 and 32 inches while males will grow to 15 inches. They will live up to 30 years in captivity.	A hide on top of the sand to allow the snake to hide above the sand. Thermometers to maintain the ends of the temp range. Light weight cork bark for décor. Climbing branches and plants. Timer to turn off the heat lamp. Under tank heater.
<b>Columbian/Red Tail Boa</b>	Age 15 and up	Escape proof enclosure, 48" long x 24" x 24" for adult snake. Basking lamp or heat pad to create a 90F area. Cool area around 80F. UVB recommended. Turn off lights at night. 50 - 60% humidity. Mist enclosure daily.	2.5 - 3" of substrate. An ideal mix: 40% Organic Topsoil + 40% ReptiSoil + 20% Play Sand. Other options: paper, coconut fiber, sphagnum moss, dead leaves, cypress mulch. Do not use reptile carpet, pine, cedar, fir, or walnut shells. Avoid anything drying or dusty like cat litter or sand.	Live mice and rats. Supervise to prevent snake injury. Alternate with previously frozen rodents. No larger than the largest diameter of the snake. Large, heavy, shallow water bowl to soak in, with daily fresh, dechlorinated water.	Large, muscular snake. Constrictor. are peaceful and easy to handle. <b>Not for beginners.</b> Like to hide in the substrate and climb. Can grow to 10 feet or more and weigh up to 60 pounds. Can live 20 - 30 years in captivity.	Humid places to hide like a cave, tube, hollow log. Lots of substrate to burrow in. Branches to climb. Live and/or artificial plants with foliage. Thermometers to monitor the hot & cold ends. Hygrometer to monitor humidity. Mister to mist substrate or humidifier.
<b>Rat &amp; Leucistic Texas Rat Snake</b>	Ages 10 and up	Escape proof enclosure, 36 - 48" long x 24" x 24" for adult snake. Halogen heat bulbs for basking area of 80-85F and a cooler area by day and no less than 70F by night. Need UVB lighting. Box to hide in with moist substrate.	Soil. Compressed coconut fiber. ReptiSoil, sphagnum moss and fir shavings. Avoid anything drying or dusty like cat litter or sand. Never use pine or cedar shavings.	Mice and rats no larger than the largest diameter of the snake. Previously frozen is ideal - thaw mice in a plastic bag in warm water until warm. Large, heavy water bowl to soak in, with daily fresh, dechlorinated water.	An inquisitive snake. Tolerate handling. Rarely bite. Wide variety of color variation. Leucistic are pale or white. Grow 4 - 5 feet. Live up to 10 - 15 years in captivity.	Places to hide. Sturdy branches to climb. Live or artificial foliage. Tubes and ledges. Re-arrange to keep them entertained. Habitat with a warm and cold end. Digital probe thermometers to monitor the hot & cold ends.
<b>Children's Spotted Python</b>	Ages 5 and up	Escape proof enclosure, 36 - 48" long x 24" x 24" for adult snake. Heater to achieve area of 90F and an area of 78F. Nights can be cooler. Lights off at night. 50% humidity.	Deep substrate that holds moisture, but won't mold; aspen bark, beech chips, reptile mulch. Newspaper or paper towels. Mist daily. Avoid anything drying or dusty like cat litter or sand. Never use pine or cedar shavings.	Mice and rats no larger than the largest diameter of the snake. Previously frozen is ideal - thaw mice in a plastic bag in warm water until warm. Large, heavy water bowl to soak in, with daily fresh, dechlorinated water.	Named after John George Children, a British Zoologist. Popular pet that can grow to 3 - 4 feet. Once past the juvenile stage, they are typically very docile and very easy to handle. Live 15 - 25 years.	A habitat with variety: grassland, wetland, shrubland, rocky, or forest like. Try a vivarium! Include places to hide. Enclosure with a hot and cool end. Climbing branches. Re-arrange their habitat to keep them entertained. An under-tank heater.
<b>Brazilian Rainbow Boa</b>	Age 12 and up	Escape proof glass enclosure, 48" long x 24" x 24" for adult snake. Heater to achieve nighttime temps ~75 F, daytime 80-85 F. Young snakes 95-100% humidity. Older snakes 75-90%. Ambient lights off at night for 8-12 hours. Mister or humidifier.	Substrates that hold moisture, but won't mold; reptile mulch, cypress, coconut products, aquarium gravel, sphagnum and green moss. Avoid anything drying or dusty like cat litter or sand. Never use pine or cedar shavings.	Mice and rats no larger than the largest diameter of the snake. Previously frozen is ideal - thaw mice in a plastic bag in warm water until warm. Large water bowl to soak in, with daily fresh, dechlorinated water.	Beautiful snake with vibrant colors and iridescent sheen. Juveniles can be very defensive, but typically calm down with handling. They can grow to 5 - 7 feet and require a high level of humidity to remain healthy. Live 20+ years.	Places to hide; a box or cave with moistened moss. Branches to climb on. Habitat with a warm and cold end. Thermometers to monitor the hot & cold ends. Hygrometer to monitor humidity. Mister to mist substrate or humidifier. Try a fluorescent light to see the snake's beautiful colors.