

Royal Python

Care Sheet



Royal Pythons are fascinating reptile's native to the grasslands and open forests of Central and West Africa. They thrive on a diet primarily consisting of smaller mammals like rats and mice, but they also enjoy birds or lizards! To create an environment that truly reflects their natural habitat, it's essential to focus on a few key aspects: setting up a comfortable space, ensuring a balanced diet, encouraging natural behaviours, and safeguarding them from potential dangers. These gentle and inquisitive snakes are often more active at night, which makes it the perfect time for them to explore and hunt. The term "Royal" Python actually stems from the tradition of African chiefs adorning themselves with these magnificent snakes to symbolise their status. Another name they go by is "Ball Python," inspired by their unique defence mechanism.

Get to know

Getting to know your Royal Python is an exciting journey! Understanding its likes and dislikes is key to creating a supportive environment where it feels safe and cherished. Recognizing signs of distress or illness is vital to ensuring its well-being. By building a strong bond, your python will learn your scent and see you as its trusted protector.

These gentle creatures, commonly known as 'ball' pythons, tend to curl up when they feel threatened. Therefore, it's important to approach them slowly and calmly at first. Once you establish that connection, you might be delighted to discover your Royal has its own unique personality! It's even been known for these charming snakes to enjoy a good TV show from time to time. So, embrace this engaging experience and enjoy every moment with your new friend!

Enclosure

A Royal Python thrives in a vivarium designed just for them! It's essential to create a spacious and well-ventilated environment that prevents the growth of harmful bacteria and ensures a secure habitat. Special door options are available to bolster security, as these clever snakes are known for their escape artistry! Ideally, your vivarium should measure at least 4 feet long, 2 feet wide, and 2 feet high (120cm x 60cm x 60cm or 4' x 2' x 2'). Creating a comfortable home for your Royal Python means avoiding large, empty spaces that can heighten their stress levels, as these areas can trigger their natural instinct to avoid predators. Instead, adding plenty of cover and multiple hiding spots is key to keeping them happy and secure. As your snake grows, remember to upgrade their enclosure accordingly, ensuring a cosy and safe environment that supports their well-being.

Temperature

Royal Pythons are fascinating, cold-blooded creatures that thrive with a reliable heat source! To keep your snake comfortable and happy, use an overhead lamp fitted with a ceramic heat bulb, ideally positioned at one end of the enclosure. This setup creates a cosy basking spot while allowing the other end to remain cooler. Don't forget to incorporate a thermostat, it's crucial for maintaining the perfect temperature range. Aim for a basking spot around 30°C to 32°C, while keeping the cooler end between 24°C and 26°C. This balance will help your Royal Python feel secure and content in its environment! Embrace the joy of creating a perfect home for your pet!

LIFESPAN

20 to 30
years in
captivity

SIZE

150cm
(5ft)

TEMPERATURE

Hot end: 30°C - 32 °C
Cold end: 24 °C - 26 °C

HUMIDITY

50% - 60%
Boost up 80%

Environment

Substrate: To create a comfortable home for your Royal Python, use bedding that reflects its natural habitat. A fantastic mix is 70% organic topsoil and 30% kid-friendly play sand, allowing ample depth for digging and exploration. Adding some leaf litter will also spark their curiosity. Remember to gently mist the bedding daily .

Décor: Creating a habitat for your Royal Python is crucial for them! Incorporating large branches and rocks for climbing not only encourages exercise but also stimulates their natural behaviours. Offering two hides, one in the warm zone and another in the cool zone. Adding artificial plants mimics their natural surroundings.

Cleaning: It is essential to keep your enclosure clean. Promptly spot clean your enclosure whenever you notice waste. Additionally, all substrates must be replaced at least once a month, and the enclosure must be thoroughly cleaned using reptile-safe disinfectant.

Diet

Feeding: A Royal Python's diet is extremely important for their health and strength. In captivity, Royal's primarily eat mice and rats, which can be found at pet shops. The size of the prey should depend on the size of your snake. As a general guideline, offer prey that is slightly wider than the widest part of the snake's body. It's recommended to use feeding tongs to give them food, preventing them from associating your hand with feeding. Young corn snakes should be fed every 5 to 6 days. As they grow older and larger, their feeding frequency can change to every 7 to 14 days.

Water: It's important to give your Royal fresh water every day! Choose a spacious bowl so they can enjoy a nice bath when they want. Remember to promptly remove any dirty water so they always have a clean, inviting place to refresh themselves.

Royal Python's weight

Snakes can sometimes become either overweight or underweight, and you can determine this by examining the shape of their body. If you notice that the snake's body has a very triangular shape and its spine is visible, it indicates that the snake is underweight. On the other hand, if the snake's body appears completely round, it is likely overweight. The goal is to find a healthy balance in between these two.



Too skinny



Just right!



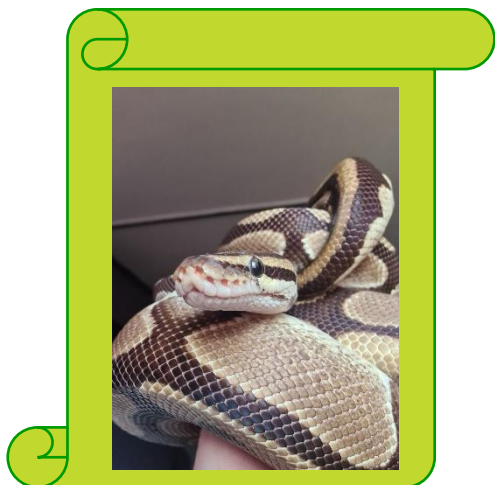
Too big





Health & Welfare

A healthy Royal Python is a joy to observe, featuring bright eyes, smooth and firm skin, a clean vent, and an engaging, active personality! They should enjoy regular feeding and drinking, have strong muscle tone, and be aware of their surroundings. If you notice any signs of illness in your snake, it's wise to consult a veterinarian. Remember, it's best to avoid trying to remove anything from their skin or inserting anything into their body, as this can lead to more harm. Your pet's well-being is worth it!



Royal Python

Shedding

Every so often, a snake undergoes an incredible transformation by shedding its skin in one large piece. It's a fascinating process that signifies the snake is growing! Younger snakes tend to shed their skin more frequently, but as they mature, this process occurs less often.

You can easily spot when a snake is about to shed; its skin will look a bit dull, and its eyes may develop a striking glazed appearance. During this time, it's best to give them some space and avoid handling them. If you notice any remnants of shed skin around their eyes, known as eye caps, it's crucial to remove them gently, as they can cause issues if left unattended.

If you notice that the shed skin isn't coming off in one piece and some parts are still clinging to the snake, simply soaking it in a lukewarm bath will help soften the remaining skin, allowing it to come off naturally. If shedding problems occur frequently, it might be a sign that you need to check your snake's heat and humidity levels. Providing the right environment is key to your snake's happy and healthy shedding.

Transport

When travelling with your pets, it's essential to create a safe and comfortable environment for them. Ensure their travel box provides sufficient space for your snake to sit comfortably while preventing any jostling during the journey. If they're new to travel, consider using a cloth bag or covering them with a light cloth to provide a calming dark space. Good ventilation is important, but ensure they can't escape! Remember that keeping them warm is crucial, so bringing a battery heat pack or a warm water bottle will help them feel cosy and secure.

Diseases and Concerns

As a proud owner of Royals, it's essential to keep a close eye on their health to ensure they thrive! One common issue is constipation, which can manifest as swelling in the area near the tail. If you notice this, a gentle soak in lukewarm water may help your corn snake pass the blockage. However, if the problem persists, don't hesitate to reach out to a veterinarian for expert care.

Another health concern to watch for is mites—tiny black parasites that can affect your snake's well-being. These little invaders often lay their eggs in the substrate of the enclosure and might be spotted around the eyes, mouth, and under the scales. Keeping the living environment clean and regularly disinfected will significantly help keep these pests at bay.

Taking the time to research potential health issues for corn snakes is invaluable. If you bring a Royal python into your home, making daily health checks a habit is a fantastic way to connect with your pet. If you notice anything unusual, consulting a reptile vet right away.