



Snake World



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Table Of Contents

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1. Milk Snake

6. Garter Snake

2. Corn Snake

7. Woma Python

4. Sand Boa

5. Ball Python



Milk Snake



Milk snakes include some of the most beautiful subspecies of any genus and they are easy to keep in captivity which explains why they are incredibly popular with reptile hobbyists. The genus of Milk snakes contains an incredible variety of snakes that have a large range of habitats. These snakes come from the farmlands, grasslands and forest. Milk snakes range from 2 to 5 feet. This is why its really hard to get a specific care sheet for these kinds of snakes.

The snake care below is a rough outline on how to care for your milk snakes.

Snake Care

Baby and juvenile snakes can be set up in an enclosure as small as a 10 gallon (20" x 10" x 12"H) but adults should be housed in a larger enclosure of 20 to 70 gallons (36" x 18" x 25"H) depending on their full adult size to allow for additional room and a better design. For example, a subspecies that becomes a 4 foot adult should be housed in an enclosure at least 40 gallons in size. There is no such thing as a cage too big for a Milk Snake so larger is always much better than smaller. Since like most snakes, Milk Snakes are escape artists, a

secure screen top is absolutely critical to keep your snake from escaping the enclosure.

Zoo Med Aspen Snake Bedding is generally the best substrate for Milk Snakes. Reptile keepers also use Zoo Med Repti Bark, Zoo Med Forest Floor Cypress Bedding or Zoo Med Eco Earth. Baby Milk Snakes can also be kept on paper towels or similar product until they become juveniles. Whichever you decide to use, stick to

well-known products designed for use with reptiles and be careful of some commercial aspen brands as they may contain high amounts of dust or other contaminants that that can be harmful to your pet.

**MILK SNAKES
RANGE FROM
2 TO 5 FEET.**

As with all reptiles, Milk Snakes need a thermal gradient consisting of a warm side (86° F) and a cool side (78° F). The best way to heat your Milk Snake's enclosure is with a combination of heat mat and ceramic heat emitter. We recommend an under tank heat mat and Infrared Ceramic Heat Emitter. The heat mat and ceramic heat emitter should be on one side while the other side should not have any heat source. We recommend controlling the ceramic emitter with a thermostat and monitoring the temperatures with a thermometer.



Corn Snake



The best beginner snakes to have are corn snakes. They come in all color mutations just like the ball pythons. These snakes are also readily available and can find them at most pet stores and reptile expos. Since they're so easy to find, they're very affordable snakes. You can find these snakes at reptile expos for about 20 to 30 dollars. When you start to look for different morphs, the prices of these snakes go up to about 100 to 150.

These snakes only go up to 4 or 6 feet long depending on their sex. Just like with other snakes, females get bigger than males. These snakes are very docile and easy to handle. These snakes as a whole are very calm snakes. With proper care, these snakes can be up to 20 years old. They are often reproductive until 10 or 20 years and sometimes even longer.

Snake Care

Baby corn snakes are often times put in a small plastic vivarium the size of a shoe box and live out the first several months. When they grow bigger however, they need at least a 20-gallon long reptile terrarium, but bigger is better. Snakes are not social animals, so cagemates can cause stress.

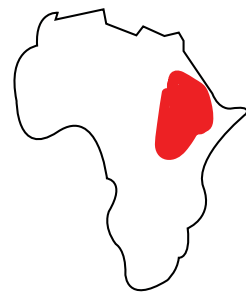
House only one snake per terrarium. All snakes are escape artists, so make sure the cage is escape proof. Corn snakes appreciate snake habitats products like climbing branches and dark, tight reptile hides. These are essential to

make your snake feel secure. Corn snakes don't require special lighting, but natural light from nearby windows will help. If you don't have a place to near a window you can always buy a reptile lamp to place overhead. Lamps will also provide a heat source for your snake. On the warm end 85 degrees Fahrenheit is perfect, and room temperatures (low 70's) are fine for cool end. Be sure to check the temperature inside the warm end of the hide - not the glass.

Temperature and very quite a bit within just a few inches, so thermometer placement is important. Misting the enclosure can cause mold and is harmful for snakes. Although, when the snake is shedding it's skin in pieces, be sure to put a clump of damp moss or a damp napkin to make the enclosure a little humid. For substrate, most breeders use aspen shavings as bedding because it is absorbent, soft and holds shape.



Sand Boa



The Kenyan sand boa has a dedicated and growing following due to its manageable size, passive personality and simple captive care requirements. Reptile breeders, pet stores, and online reptile stores are good sources to find Kenyan sand boas. The naturally occurring color of Kenyan sand boas is beautiful as it is, but there are also plenty of color morphs to choose from.

The Kenyan sand boa is a small boa, with females reaching little more than 2 feet in length. Male Kenyan sand boas tend to be smaller than females, rarely exceeding 20 inches in length. Kenyan sand boas have a heavy, stout body.

SNAKE CARE

The Kenyan sand boa is appealing to many keepers because of its minimal space requirements. Even the largest female Kenyan sand boa can be comfortably housed in a 10-gallon reptile terrarium with a secure lid, or a similarly sized enclosure.

If a terrarium with a screen lid is used for the Kenyan sand boa along with an incandescent overhead lamp fixture during the day, to heat the air in the cage. The hotspot under the light should be approximately 95 degrees Fahrenheit and the cooler side of the enclosure should be around 80 degrees. A drop to the mid-70s at night is acceptable. This can be measured using reptile thermometers. Given the Kenyan

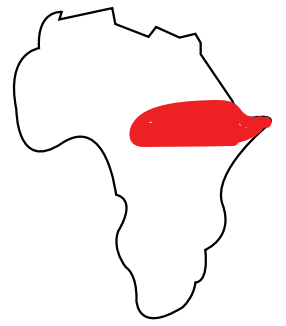
sand boa's propensity for burrowing, habitat accessories should be minimal. Heavy rocks should be avoided, unless they are firmly fastened to the enclosure. If a Kenyan sand boa burrows beneath heavy rocks and causes a mini-avalanche, the result could be injury or even death to the snake. Despite its small size, the Kenyan sand boa can be very destructive to your cage's interior design, so décor does not need to be excessive.

Many people naturally assume the only choice of substrate for the Kenyan sand boa is sand. The truth is the Kenyan sand boa can be kept on a variety of reptile beddings, including aspen bedding, coconut mulch, play sand and even newspaper. I have kept and bred Kenyan sand boas on all of these materials. I do recommend staying away from gravel, corncob bedding and, for all reptiles, cedar shavings.

Sand boas are very even-tempered. They are very docile and harmless. Although these snakes are very friendly creatures, if you approach a Kenyan sand boa from above, near the front third of its body, it may assume you are food and strike at you. A bite from a Kenyan sand boa is no more severe than a scratch from a housecat, to put it into perspective, but it can still be painful for you and traumatic for the snake, and for these reasons a bite should be avoided as much as possible.



Ball Python



The ball python is quite simply the most popular pet python in the world. Ball pythons are generally a bit shy, but they make for ideal captives, because they are of a small size, are generally friendly, are manageable to care for, and come in a remarkable array of colors and patterns.

Ball pythons make for a quality pet for the first-time keeper and experienced herpetoculturists alike. Each year, breeders create incredible, innovative, never-before-seen pattern and color variations that continually generate new fans of the ball python. With reptile health and wellness in mind, this species thrives in captivity.

Ball python hatchlings are approximately 10 inches in length. Adult female ball pythons average 3 to 5 feet long, and adult male ball pythons average 2 to 3 feet in size. This is a species in which mature females are typically much larger than the males. A 5-foot ball python is considered big, although lengths of 6 feet or more have been reported. These snakes can live up to 30 years.

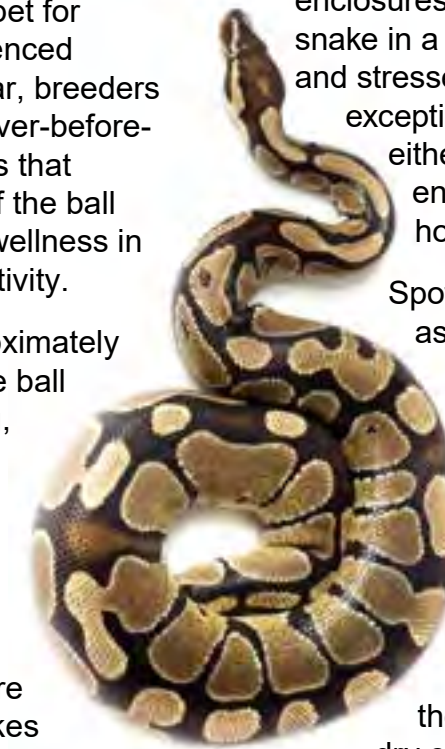
SNAKE CARE

Ball python enclosures can be as simple or as elaborate as you want to care for when it comes to snake habitat products. Remember that the more you put in the cage, the more you have to clean and disinfect on a regular basis. That said, there are different enclosures that work well for ball pythons, including, but not limited to, plastic

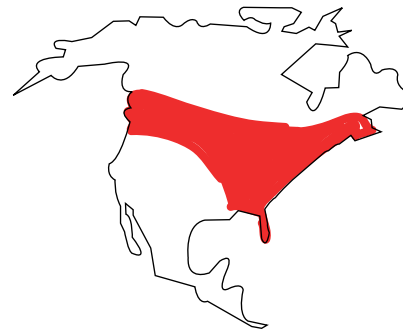
sweaterboxes (i.e. Rubbermaid), melamine racks and any of the commercially available, plastic-type reptile cages. Glass reptile terrariums and tanks are adequate for ball pythons, but the screen tops on such enclosures can make it very difficult to maintain proper humidity levels.

Juvenile ball pythons seem to do well in small enclosures that make them feel secure. A small snake in a big cage can become overwhelmed and stressed. Adult ball pythons do not require exceptionally large or elaborate enclosures either. A 36-inch by 18-inch by 12-inch enclosure will more than comfortably house an adult ball python.

Spot-clean your ball python's enclosure as necessary. Remove feces and urates as soon as possible. You can use a specialized cleaner to be extra safe, such as the Flukers Eco Clean Waste Remover. Do a complete tear-down every 30 days by removing all substrate and reptile accessories and completely disinfecting with a 5 percent bleach solution. Rinse the enclosure thoroughly with water, and allow it to dry completely before replacing cage accessories and your snake.



Garter Snake



Garter snakes are small colubrid snakes that are not constrictors. They do not pose any dangers to children other than salmonella, which can be carried by any reptile. They are active during the day so they have excellent eye sight which they use along with their keen sense of smell to find and capture prey. They make great display pets because they are very alert and active. In the wild they are often found around water; streams, rivers, lakes and marshes.

Females are around 3ft long depending on species and males are usually 2ft or less in length. They are a fairly slim bodied snake, males more so than females. Babies are very small, average size at birth is 6-8 inches.

The average life span in the wild may only be 4-5 years however they can live twice as long in captivity. Captives reaching over 10 years old have been documented when reptile health and wellness is prioritized along with proper snake supplies, reptile cleaning supplies, and snake habitat products.

SNAKE CARE

Garters can be kept in rack systems, but are best suited for aquarium or reptile terrarium style cages. Acrylic or screen style terrariums make ideal cages and can be decorated reptile habitat accessories like wood and vines for the snake to climb around on, which provides beneficial exercise. Minimum size for an adult is a 28 quart plastic tube or a 29 gallon aquarium/terrarium. Males could be kept in

slightly smaller cages than females due to their size difference. Multiple garter snakes can be kept together with more space however they should be separated for feeding to avoid incidental cannibalism. A pair of garter snakes can live comfortably in a 55 gallon size. The more space the better as garters are very active and like to climb.

If UV light is not provided it is recommended to occasionally dust food items with a calcium/vitamin powder that contains D3, such as

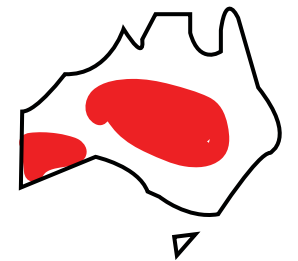
Zoo Med Repti Calcium with D3 Supplement. Garter snakes need a basking area between 90-95 degrees for proper digestion.

Heat can be provided by either a basking lamp, heat tape (or Zilla Heat Mat) under the tank or both. As with any reptile a temperature gradient should occur in the cage

with hides on both the hot and cool sides monitored by a Zilla Terrarium Heat & Habitat Lighting Controller. It is important to maintain moderate humidity for proper shedding however the cage should not be kept damp or wet as this will cause blistering on the belly.



Woma Python



Woma python babies can start out in enclosures as small as 10 to 15 gallons. At around a year old, you can increase the size of the enclosure. There are several kinds that work for womas, e.g., glass aquariums, snake racks and any of the commercially available, plastic-type reptile enclosures. For an adult, you can step up to an enclosure that is at least 36" x 18" (Exo Terra Large, or Zilla 40 gal) or a larger 48" x 24"

You can use many types of bedding for your woma. The ones that look and work the best are Exo Terra (natural) sand, Zoo Med eco earth, and Zoo Med aspen. Spot clean the bedding whenever they defecate. If you choose sand, keep it thin (about 1/2") do not use calcium sand. It can clump in your animals gut like cat litter. You should only need to clean the whole thing out about once a month. Disinfect the enclosure and change out the bedding at that time. Zoo Meds wipe out or vinegar and water both work good for cage cleaning.

SNAKE CARE

Womas originate from the arid and semi-arid regions in Australia and they like it pretty warm, though they need to be able to cool off if they want to. Like all reptiles, they are dependent on external thermoregulation to control their body temperature. This essentially means you need to provide both a hot and cool side to your enclosure. All the heat elements should be on one side and the other will then be the cool side. This way your snake can move back and forth between the different temperatures depending on its needs.

The hot side basking spot should be at 87-90 degrees. Put one hide there and another hide on the cool side. The cool side can be between 75-80 degrees. At night it can drop down to 72 ambient temperature. It's a good idea to use a basking light and an under tank heat pad also. The heat pads are usually placed on the hot side with a hide over it.

Keep a non-porous water bowl in with your woma python and make sure they always have clean water. If you maintain a humidity level of around 50%, your snake will be able to shed properly. Hand misters are usually sufficient.

This means the girth of the food item should not exceed the girth of the snake (at its biggest point, not his neck size). We suggest providing a variety by rotating what kind of prey item is offered. Do not handle your snake for at least 24 hours after it has eaten. Snakes in general tend not to eat when they are in shed. Just wait to feed until your pet sheds. Snakes over two years can eat every 2 weeks if you want. Make sure it's a decent size meal.

Woma pythons are rather gentle snakes with a good tolerance for being handled. This along with a nice feeding response makes them great pets. They are generally friendly and easy to care for.



**A whole new
world of
wonderful
sankes**

