



Carpenter Python Care Sheet:

Species Name:

Morelia spilota

Adult size:

Up to 6ft

Lifespan:

15-20 Years

Breeding Age:

1 year



Carpenter pythons (*Morelia spilota*) are a diverse group of non-venomous snakes found across Australia, New Guinea, and parts of Indonesia. They exhibit a wide range of patterns and colours, from dark brown to olive green with intricate markings, which help them blend into their surroundings. These semi-arboreal snakes are adaptable, inhabiting forests, grasslands, and even urban areas. They feed on small mammals, birds, and occasionally reptiles. Carpet pythons are known for their snappy demeanour and manageable size, making them popular pets among reptile enthusiasts. In captivity, they require proper temperature and humidity to thrive, reflecting their diverse natural habitats.

Housing:

Enclosure: Use a secure, escape-proof enclosure with suitable ventilation to control humidity.

Size: For an adult Carpet Python a suitable enclosure size is roughly 3ft long and has an appropriate height due to this being a semi-arboreal species. Putting a juvenile in an enclosure this size may prove stressful due to the abundance of open space, be sure to include plenty of hiding species to mitigate the stress factors.

Substrate: A humid substrate like bark chips or coir will mimic their natural environment.

Temperature and Lighting:

Temperature Gradient: Maintain a temperature gradient in the enclosure. The warm side should be around 30-34°C, while the cool side should be 22-26°C.

Heating: Use an under-tank heating pad, ceramic heat emitter or heat tape to create a warm spot. A thermostat is essential to regulate the temperature.

Lighting: Carpet Pythons do not require special lighting, but a day/night cycle should be maintained. A simple ambient room light is usually sufficient. If you wish to use UVB lighting, a 6% shade dweller light can be used.

Humidity:

Humidity Level: Keep the humidity level between 50-60%.

Misting: Provide a water bowl and mist the enclosure as needed to maintain humidity.

Feeding:

Diet: Feed your Python appropriately sized prey items. For juveniles, start with appropriately sized mice, and as they grow, transition to larger rodents.

Feeding Schedule: Feed juveniles every 5-7 days, while adults can be fed every 10-14 days. Adjust the schedule based on the individual snake's metabolism.

Prey Size: Offer prey items that are about the same width as the snake's widest part.



Health and Handling:

Regular Check-ups: Monitor your snake for signs of illness, such as respiratory issues or changes in behaviour. If any concerns arise, consult a reptile veterinarian.

Handling: These snakes are known to be very snappy and do not enjoy being handled the majority of the time. Limit handling to only when necessary!

Enrichment:

Hide Boxes: Provide multiple hide boxes on both the warm and cool sides of the enclosure.

Branches and Climbing: Include branches or climbing structures for exercise and mental stimulation.

Environmental Variation: Occasionally rearrange the enclosure layout to provide environmental enrichment.

General Tips:

Cleanliness: Keep the enclosure clean by removing waste regularly and disinfecting as needed.

Research: Stay informed about the specific needs and behaviours of Carpet Pythons to ensure their well-being.

Remember that each snake is an individual, and adjustments may be necessary based on your snake's specific requirements and preferences. Always consult with a reptile veterinarian for personalized advice.