



Hognose Care Sheet:

Species Name:

Heterodon nasicus

Adult size:

2-3feet

Lifespan:

15-20 Years

Breeding age:

2 years



Hognose snakes, known for their distinctive upturned snouts, belong to the genus *Heterodon*. These non-venomous reptiles inhabit North America, favouring sandy or loose soil environments. Their unique snouts aid in burrowing and digging for prey, primarily amphibians, rodents, and insects. When threatened, hognose snakes display fascinating behaviours. Initially, they may hiss loudly, flatten their necks, and even strike, though they rarely bite. If these displays fail to deter predators, they might enact a dramatic death-feigning act, flipping onto their backs, mouths agape, resembling a lifeless snake. Despite their mild disposition, their appearance and behaviours make them intriguing subjects for reptile enthusiasts.

Enclosure:

Size: Your Hognose will be happy in a 3ft wooden vivarium.

Substrate: Use a deep layer of a dry substrate like sand or aspen to allow your snake to burrow.

Temperature:

Hot End: The warmer end of your enclosure should be roughly 30-32°C .

Ambient Temperature: Maintain an ambient temperature of 21-25°C. Ensure you drop the temperature to the lower end of the ambient temperature at night to simulate the snakes natural environment.

Humidity:

Hognoses thrive in a relatively dry environment. Maintain a humidity of 30-50%, increase to aid shedding and allow proper ventilation.

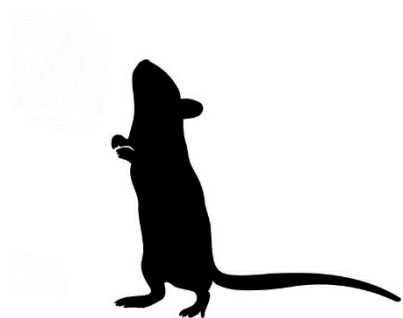
Lighting:

While Hognoses do not require UVB lighting to survive, adding a bulb into your vivarium does have health benefits. These snakes are classed under Ferguson Zone 2, meaning they will only bask occasionally.

Diet:

Hognoses are carnivorous, with their diet consisting of appropriately sized mice or rats.

Juveniles can be fed pinkies every 5-7 days. The largest food they will eat being large mice as an adult every 7-10 days.



Behaviour and Enrichment:

While hognoses spend a lot of time burrowed under the substrate, they do come out into the open to explore, bask, hunt, and shed. Provide plenty of enrichment in the forms of branches and rocks for your snake to bask on, and provide ample hiding spaces to ensure your snake is not stressed.

Handling:

Handle your Hognose gently and regularly to build trust. Support their body when handling to avoid stress or injury. Always avoid handling after your snake has eaten to avoid regurgitation.

Health:

Health checks: If you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance, seek professional advice promptly.

Cleanliness: Clean and disinfect the enclosure regularly, removing faeces and uneaten food promptly to maintain a healthy environment.

Remember, understanding and replicating the natural environment of the Kenyan Sand Boa is crucial for their well-being. Always conduct further research and consult with experienced reptile keepers or veterinarians for the best care practices.