



Kunashir Island Rat Snake Care Sheet

Species Name:

Elaphe Climacophora

Adult size:

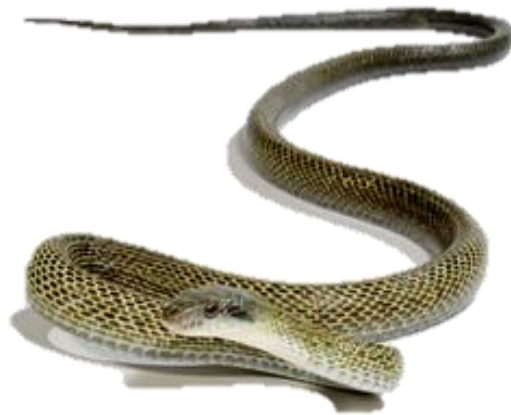
39-78 Inches

Lifespan:

13-15 Years

Breeding age:

3-4 Years



The Kunashir Island Rat Snake is a non-venomous colubrid snake native to Kunashir Island in the Kuril Islands, off the eastern coast of Russia. This snake is known for its vibrant colours, slender body, and docile nature, making it a popular choice among reptile enthusiasts.

Habitat:

Enclosure: Use a secure and escape-proof enclosure, such as a glass or plastic terrarium with a tight-fitting lid. Provide a minimum of 24"x18"x18" vivarium for juveniles and a 36"x18"x18" inch for adults. Ensure good ventilation while maintaining a secure environment.

Substrate: Use a substrate such as aspen shavings, cypress mulch, or paper towels. Keep the substrate clean and dry to prevent respiratory issues. Ensure it is at least 2 inches deep for burrowing.

Hides: Include multiple hiding spots to make the snake feel secure. Half logs, artificial caves, and commercial snake hides work well.

Temperature:

Maintain a thermal gradient with a basking spot between 29-32°C and a cooler side around 24-27°C. Use under-tank heating pads or heat lamps to create the necessary temperature gradient.

Rat Snakes do not require UVB lighting, however, there is some evidence to show it is beneficial to their wellbeing so can be used at the owner's discretion.

A 12-hour light-dark cycle for a natural day-night rhythm should be provided.

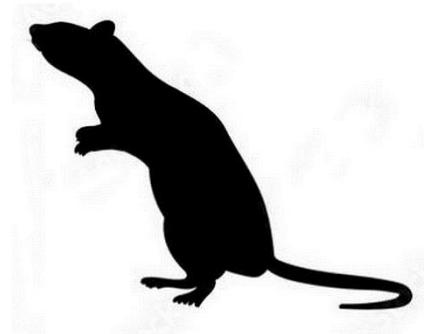
Humidity:

Maintain a humidity level of 40-60%. Ensure proper shedding by providing a humidity boost during the shedding period using a humidity box or misting the enclosure.

Feeding:

Diet: Kunashir Island Rat Snakes primarily eat rodents. Feed juveniles every 5-7 days, and adults every 10-14 days. Offer appropriately sized prey items, usually mice or small rats.

Hydration: Provide a shallow water dish for drinking and soaking. Ensure fresh water is available at all times.



Handling:

Temperament: Kunashir Island Rat Snakes are generally docile, but handle them gently and with confidence to avoid stress.

Frequency: Limit handling to a few times a week to allow the snake to acclimate to its environment. Avoid handling during shedding or after feeding.

Health and Maintenance:

Shedding: Provide a humid hide during shedding to aid in the removal of the old skin. Ensure the humidity level is around 50-60%.

Health Checks: Regularly monitor the snake for signs of illness, such as changes in behaviour, lethargy, or abnormal faeces. Consult a vet if any issues arise.

Enrichment:

Climbing Opportunities: Kunashir Island Rat Snakes are semi-arboreal, so include branches or climbing structures in the enclosure.

Variety in Environment: Rearrange the decor occasionally to provide mental stimulation.

Always research and consult with experienced reptile keepers or veterinarians to ensure the specific needs of your Kunashir Island Rat Snake are met. Each snake may have individual preferences, and adjustments to care may be necessary based on their behaviour and health.