



## Milk Snake Care Sheet:

**Species Name:**

*Lampropeltis Triangulum*

**Adult Size:**

24-48 Inches

**Live Expectancy:**

10-20 Years

**Breeding Age:**

2-3 Years



Milk snakes are non-venomous colubrid snakes found in North and South America. They belong to the genus *Lampropeltis*, which also includes kingsnakes. Milk snakes are known for their vibrant coloration and distinct banding patterns, which can vary among subspecies. They are adaptable and can inhabit a range of environments, including forests, grasslands, and rocky areas.

### **Habitat:**

**Enclosure:** A secure and escape-proof enclosure is essential. A 24"x18"x18" vivarium is suitable for juveniles, while adults may require a vivarium of 36"x18"x18" or larger. Ensure proper ventilation.

**Substrate:** Use a substrate like aspen bedding or cypress mulch for burrowing and moisture retention.

**Hides:** Provide at least two hiding spots—one on the warm side and one on the cool side.

## Temperature:

Maintain a temperature gradient. The warm side should be around 29-32°C while the cool side can be around 24-27°C. Use an under-tank heating pad or heat lamp to achieve this gradient.

## Lighting:

Milk snakes are primarily crepuscular, meaning they are most active during dawn and dusk. A natural light cycle is sufficient, but you can use a low-wattage UVB light for added enrichment.

## Humidity:

**Ideal Humidity Range:** Maintain a relative humidity level of 40-60% in the enclosure. This range helps mimic the natural conditions of various environments where milk snakes are found.

**Shedding Assistance:** Adequate humidity is essential during the shedding process. Provide a humidity boost by misting one side of the enclosure or placing a humidity box filled with damp moss. This helps the snake remove its old skin more easily.

**Monitoring:** Use a hygrometer to regularly monitor humidity levels within the enclosure. Adjustments can be made by increasing or decreasing misting frequency, changing the type of substrate, or adding more or larger water bowls.

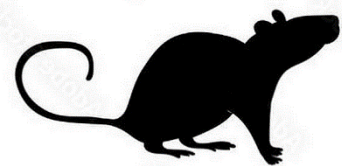
**Ventilation:** While maintaining humidity is important, ensure proper ventilation to prevent the growth of mould or bacteria. Well-ventilated enclosures help create a healthy living environment for your milk snake.

**Behavioural Indicators:** Watch for behavioural signs that may indicate inadequate humidity, such as excessive soaking or difficulty shedding. Adjust the enclosure conditions accordingly.

## Feeding:

**Diet:** Milk snakes primarily eat rodents. Offer appropriately sized mice or rat pups based on the snake's size. Feed juveniles every 5-7 days and adults every 10-14 days.

**Prey Size:** Feed prey items no larger than the snake's widest body part.



## **Health and Handling:**

Regular Health Checks: Monitor your snake for any signs of illness, such as changes in appetite, lethargy, or respiratory issues.

Handling: Handle your milk snake gently and avoid excessive stress. Wash hands before and after handling.

## **Maintenance:**

Cleaning: Remove faeces and soiled bedding regularly. Perform a full substrate change every 4-6 weeks.

Water: Provide a shallow, easily accessible water dish for drinking and soaking.

## **Behaviour and Enrichment:**

Enrichment: Milk snakes are curious. Offer climbing branches and structures for mental stimulation.

Nocturnal Nature: Milk snakes are crepuscular or nocturnal, so avoid excessive handling during the day.

## **Common Issues:**

Shedding: Ensure proper humidity during shedding to aid in a complete and healthy shed.

Parasites: Regularly check for external parasites and consult a vet if needed.

Remember, individual snakes may have unique preferences and requirements, so observe your milk snake closely and adjust care accordingly. Always consult with a reptile veterinarian for specific concerns or questions.