



Royal Python Care Sheet:

Species Name:

Python regius

Adult size:

3-6ft

Lifespan:

20-30 Years

Breeding Age:

16-18 Months (Male)

27-30 Months (Female)



The Royal Python, also known as the Ball Python, is a non-venomous constrictor snake native to the tropical regions of West and Central Africa. In the wild, they inhabit grasslands, savannas, and open forests. These nocturnal snakes are known for their calm and gentle nature, making them a popular choice among snake enthusiasts.

Housing:

Enclosure: Use a secure, escape-proof enclosure with a secure lid and suitably ventilated to control humidity.

Size: A minimum enclosure size for an adult Royal Python should be 36 inches (length) x 18 inches (width) x 12 inches (height). A larger enclosure is recommended for a more comfortable environment.

Substrate: Provide a substrate like aspen shavings, cypress mulch, or coconut coir for humidity retention. Keep the substrate dry, but provide a humidity hide to help with shedding.

Temperature and Lighting:

Temperature Gradient: Maintain a temperature gradient in the enclosure. The warm side should be around 31-33°C (88-92°F), while the cool side should be 24-27°C (75-80°F).

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: Royal Pythons do not require special lighting, but a day/night cycle should be maintained. A simple ambient room light is usually sufficient.

Humidity:

Humidity Level: Keep the humidity level between 50-60%. Increase it to 70-80% during shedding to aid in the process.

Misting: Provide a water bowl and mist the enclosure as needed to maintain humidity. Ensure that the substrate remains dry.

Feeding:

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

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: Handle your Royal Python gently and with confidence. Limit handling before and after feeding to reduce stress.

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 Royal 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.