



Spotted Python Care Sheet:

Species Name:

Antaresia maculosa

Adult size:

5ft

Lifespan:

20-30 Years

Breeding Age:

Breeding is usually achievable by 18 months.



The Spotted Python, *Antaresia maculosa*, is a captivating species found in Australia's tropical regions. With its distinctive pattern of irregular spots along its body, it's a sight to behold. Despite its intimidating appearance, it's a docile and manageable pet reptile, making it a favourite among snake enthusiasts. Typically reaching lengths of up to 5 feet, they're relatively small compared to other python species. Spotted Pythons are nocturnal hunters, preying on small mammals, birds, and reptiles. Their adaptability to various habitats, from forests to rocky areas, contributes to their wide distribution.

Housing:

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

Size: For an adult Spotted Python a suitable enclosure size is 3-4ft. 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 28-32°C, while the cool side should be 23-25°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: Spotted 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 45-55%.

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

Feeding:

Diet: Feed your Spotted 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: Handle your Spotted 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.