



Trinket Snake Care Sheet:

Species Name:

Coelognathus helena

Adult size:

Upwards of 4ft

Lifespan:

10 years

Breeding age:

12 Months



Coelognathus helena, commonly known as the Trinket Snake is a slender and agile colubrid snake species native to Southeast Asia. Its striking appearance includes a glossy golden-yellow body adorned with black markings, giving it an elegant and vibrant demeanour. With a length averaging around 4ft, it's known for its arboreal lifestyle, often found climbing trees or dwelling in bushes. As an adaptable predator, Trinket Snakes prey on small mammals, birds, lizards, and occasionally, eggs. Due to its appealing coloration and docile temperament, it's also a popular species among reptile enthusiasts for captive breeding.

Housing:

Enclosure: A spacious terrarium or vivarium is essential. A 24"x18"x18" vivarium is suitable for hatchlings, but adult Trinket Snakes require at least a 36"x18"x18" vivarium. Ensure secure ventilation and escape-proof locks.

Substrate: Use a substrate like orchid bark or coconut coir to maintain a suitable level of humidity in the vivarium.

Hides: Provide multiple hiding spots on both the warm and cool sides of the enclosure. This helps reduce stress and provides a sense of security.

Temperature and Lighting:

Temperature: Maintain a temperature gradient. The warm side should be around 30°C while the cool side can be around 23°C. Use an under-tank heating pad or heat lamp to achieve this gradient.

Lighting: Trinket 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 Ferguson Zone 2 UVB light for added enrichment.

Humidity:

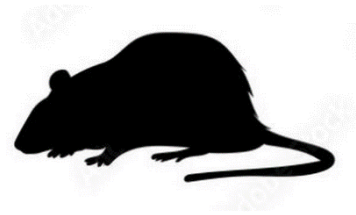
Keep the overall humidity levels in the range of 50% to 70%. This range simulates the conditions of their natural habitat, which includes varying humidity levels in different environments.

Humid Hide: Create a designated humid hide on the cooler side of the enclosure. This hide should have a substrate that retains moisture well, such as sphagnum moss or coconut coir. This area allows your snake to retreat when shedding its skin or when it needs a boost in humidity.

Hygrometer: Use a reliable hygrometer to monitor humidity levels accurately. This tool will help you make adjustments as needed, ensuring your snake's comfort and preventing respiratory issues.

Feeding:

Diet: Trinket Snakes are carnivorous, and their diet consists mainly of appropriately sized mice or rats. Hatchlings can be fed pinkie mice, while adults may consume larger prey. Feed juveniles every 5-7 days, and adults every 10-14 days.



Handling:

Handle your Trinket snake regularly to build trust and reduce stress. Avoid handling immediately after feeding to prevent regurgitation.

Health and Maintenance:

Health Check: Regularly inspect your snake for signs of shedding problems, mites, or any health issues. Ensure proper humidity during shedding.

Shedding: Provide a humid hide during shedding to aid in the process. If your snake is having difficulty shedding, consult a vet.

Cleanliness: Keep the enclosure clean by removing waste promptly, and perform a more thorough clean at least once a month.

Behaviour:

Trinket Snakes can be temperamental, often times they can hiss and strike however, with regular handling they calm down nicely and make excellent pets when they reach maturity. Do not mistake these behaviours for aggression, be patient and your snake will outgrow their bad temper!

Successfully caring for a Trinket Snake involves creating a habitat that mimics their natural environment and maintaining optimal conditions for their physical and mental well-being. Regular observation and interaction will foster a strong bond between you and your captivating serpent companion. Always consult with a veterinarian experienced in reptile care for specific health concerns or questions.