


The Ultimate Ball Python Care Sheet

Is this Reptile Right for You?

This medium-sized snake is a favorite amongst reptile hobbyists and beginners alike. With their docile temperament and manageable care needs, the ball python is a great contender for someone who wishes to own a pet that is both beautiful and handleable with a long life span.

- Locale: sub-Sahara Africa
- Scientific/Other Names: *python regius*, ball python, royal python
- Animal Purchasing Costs: ranges from \$\$-\$\$\$\$\$\$ depending on genetics
- Nocturnal; will be most active after dusk
- Venomous? No.
- Carnivores, they consume only feeder rats and mice
- Experience Needed: Can be first reptiles, better if you have own a reptile before
- Lifespan in captivity; 15-25 years
- Time, Space, and Maintenance Required:  * learn about the Gizmo Rating System
- Personality and Handleability: Docile. Can range, some are feverish explorers others are more timid. Most are very handleable.
- UVB Lighting Required: No
- Best Characteristics: Ball Pythons are notoriously gentle snakes. They have wonderful personalities that are unique to each individual and have hundreds of colors and “morphs” available.

- Challenges: Can be picky eaters, may require patience and troubleshooting abilities when feeding.

...not sure if this reptile is the perfect pet for you? Here are some similar options...

1. Cornsnake
2. Rosy Boa

Yes! A Ball Python is the Perfect Reptile for you. Here's how to care for them:

Essentials for your Ball Python Setup:

- Enclosure
- Substrate
- Under Tank Heat Mat
- 1-2 Cozy Hides
- Misting Bottle
- Heat Gun
- Water bowl large enough for soaking



Enclosure

1. Hatchling to Baby - 15 gallon
2. Juvenile - 20-40 gallon long
3. Adult - 40 gallon long

** "long" tanks are best suited to this species of reptile as they require more length than height to their setup.*

Substrate

1. Aspen Snake Bedding
2. Coco Bark Bedding
3. Coco Husk Bedding *If you decide to use this bedding, please ask about the safety precautions.
4. Newspaper

You have many options for substrate, however, please do not use cedar bedding. The oils in this material are toxic to all snakes.

Heat Range

Reptiles require a range of heat so they can self regulate their temperature

- Ideal Cool End Temperature: 75 - 80 F
- Ideal Hot End Temperature: 85 - 90 F
- Unhealthy Low temperature: 65 F
- Unhealthy High Temperature: 95 F

Humidity

Humidity is not a major concern with ball pythons, however, it is best for your ball python to keep the humidity within a range similar to their native habitat.

- Ideal Humidity Range: 55-60%
- Do not drop below 50%
- You can change the humidity in your ball python's enclosure by simply increasing/decreasing water bowl size and/or misting the enclosure as needed
- Manage humidity with a hygrometer

Food

- Ball pythons thrive on rodents. Rats provide more nutrition than mice.

- Frozen/Thawed (F/T) Rodents provide the safest, most humane option when feeding your ball python
- The size of rodents you should offer your ball python vary according to the age of the snake
- You can also feed live rodents to your ball python, however, it is much more dangerous to the snake and painful for the rodent.
- Some snakes may only eat live and will require you to transition them to frozen/thawed

There are times where your ball python may go on a “hunger strike”. Do not be too alarmed, as this is something all ball python owners deal with.

