



Jungle Fever Care Sheet

Californian King Snake

This care sheet has been developed by the proprietor through research and personal experience. It is intended to provide information on initial set up and the care that your pet will require. For more in depth advice and information please do

not hesitate to discuss your pet further with the staff of Jungle Fever or purchase a specific species book available at Jungle Fever.

Common Name: King Snake

Natural Origination: California, Oregon, Arizona and Utah.

Life Span: 15-20 years

Adult Size: 2-4ft, but can reach 5ft in length. They are a cannibalistic species, so should never be housed with another king snake, or another snake species, except for breeding with a female King Snake.

VIVARIUM SIZE: Adults size vivarium should be around 36''l x 24''h x18''w

ENCLOSURES: Adults should be housed in a vivarium. Hatchlings can be kept in appropriate sized faunarium.

UV LIGHTING: Not required

HEAT: You should provide a cooler and warmer side to the vivarium. They will need daytime temperature of 74-79F with a hotspot of 84-86F. This should be allowed to drop by an extra 5F during the night. Stay away from heat rocks, these have been said to burn snakes.

HUMIDITY: Minimal humidity

DIET: King Snakes are fantastic feeders. The downside is they will go into a feeding frenzy after eating their meal. Do not offer more food to the king as they will eat until they die. Hatchlings should be fed on pinkies (baby mice) every 3-5 days. As they grow, this can be increased to two pinkies every 10 days, then slowly increase the size of the food. Adults will eat ½ rat weaners easily. Kings are very fast feeders and will strike at the food and some will coil around and construct the food. If they don't it's nothing to worry about and they are just more gentle feeders. It is advisable to use feeding tong for feeding the King Snake.

SUBSTRATE: Bark or beech chippings. Do not use sand or sawdust.

SANITARY MEASURES: Sanitary measures are important for your pet's health and well being. Faecal matter will need to be cleared on a daily basis and clean substrate added as required. Clean the tank weekly with an appropriate cage cleaner made for snakes.

Clean furnishings weekly by soaking in hot water and rinsing thoroughly before placing back into the enclosure.

Sanitary measures are also important for your health. Always wash your hands with a good antibacterial soap after you have finished cleaning and always wash hands between enclosures of other animals.

WATER: Fresh water changed daily is essential. Adults will need a large bowl so that they can curl up inside it without knocking it over. Hatchlings will need a smaller heavy water bowl.

HEALTH: It is best to make a log of when your snake eats and sheds its skin, as this will show good records if you ever decide to sell it on or if the snake becomes ill.

A King Snake typically sheds its skin about every 6-8 weeks (more frequently as juveniles). First the snake's belly tends to turn pinkish and the tail area starts to get a rather dull color. Next the overall color of the snake will get dull and the eyes get cloudy and bluish, or even white. A few days later, the snake's eyes will clear and the snake will return to its normal brilliance. The actual shedding of the skin usually occurs 2-5 days after the eyes have cleared.

Please Note: Do not attempt to handle a Royal Python during a shed cycle, as they are virtually blinded and may become defensive/aggressive.

Please Note: Feeding should not be attempted once the eyes start to cloud up or get blue. Feeding may resume after the snake has shed its skin.

Any concerns, please contact your reptile vet immediately.