



Jungle Fever Care Sheet

ROYAL PYTHON

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: Royal or Ball (Python regius)

NATIVE: West Africa

SIZE: 3-4ft although females have been known to reach 6ff. 4-6 in diameter at the thickest part of their body.

LIFE SPAN: 20-30 years

ENCLOSURES: Juveniles may be housed in plastic storage containers. Such containers are commercially available however be sure to choose one with a well ventilated lid

A vivarium of 4ff x 2ff x 2ff would be suitable to house 1 adult Royal Python. If using sliding glass doors, they will require a glass cabinet lock to prevent escapes. Glass aquaria should be avoided as they do not offer the snakes a sense of security and are difficult to heat properly as the insulation properties of glass are very poor.

The security of the snake is very important as the Royal Python is normally docile and shy. If the snake is kept in a brightly lit room with much activity and noise, it will become nervous to feed. The vivarium should be sited in a quiet room with subdued lighting.

UV LIGHTING: UV lighting is not required

HEAT: Heating should be in the form of a thermostatically controlled heat mat placed in the vivarium under the substrate. 'Hot rocks' should be avoided as they may become too hot and cause burns to the snake. The heat mat should cover one third to half the floor area; this will create a thermal gradient that will give the snake a choice of temperature within the vivarium. A temperature of 27-29°C during the day should be aimed for with a drop to 21-24°C at night. Other lighting is not essential, but a night light for viewing that the snake cannot see. The bulb should be shielded by a mesh guard.

HUMIDITY: This species requires moderate to high levels of humidity.

THERMOMETERS: Thermometers and hygrometer are essential for correct regulation of heat and humidity.

SUBSTRATE: Kitchen Roll or newspaper is preferred for hatchling Royal Pythons. Bark Chipping, snake carpet, or hummus block for adult Royal Python

CAGE FURNISHINGS: Simple cage furnishings will prove easier to clean. You should provide branches for climbing and a hide.

Always make sure the furnishings are secure and won't topple over to hurt or kill your animal. Large rocks need to be secured so that the snake cannot burrow underneath and accidentally crush itself to death.

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 safe for reptile use.

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.

Diet: Royal Pythons are rodent feeders; so thawed frozen rodents can be used. Rat pups are known to be preferred. Wild or live rodents should not be offered as they could carry disease and will damage your snake. Feeding a captive bred or long term captive snake should not present any problems, other than the initial settling-in period. Keeping a feeding record of what & when the snake has fed may be beneficial. See notes on housing. If the vivarium is in a brightly lit or in a noisy room then it will be nervous to feed.

The size of prey offered should be relative to the size of the snake.

If the snake refuses to feed after three or four attempts, try varying the prey. The snake's environment could also be adjusted. Try raising the temperature by a few degrees or reduce the lighting slightly. A combination of these factors may also be the key to induce feeding.

SUPPLEMENTS: No other supplements required as the snake will take all it needs from the rodent; however reptile multivitamin drops are available to add to its water.

WATER: Provide a large fairly deep bowl for drinking and soaking.

HEALTH: Usually quite docile and shy. Over handling is not recommended and may stress your snake.

A Royal Python 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 rather dull in colour. Next the overall colour of the snake will get dull and the eyes will 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 colour and 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. It is very important to increase humidity levels during a shed cycle, in order to ensure a complete and one piece shed. Humidity should be increased to 70%+ when any of these signs are observed. Misting the sides of the enclosure with water several times a day will help to maintain an increased humidity level.

It will also be helpful to take notes on feeding, sheds and other observations. Any concerns contact your nearest reptile vet.