

ANIMAL INFORMATION SHEET

Common Name – Ball Python

Scientific Name – Python reguis

Order: Squamata

Suborder: Serpentes Family: Pythonidae



Care, feeding and handling guidelines are outlined by the Association of Zoo and Aquariums, US Fish and Wildlife and the United States Department of Agriculture.

General Information:

Size: 5-6 Feet

Lifespan: 20+ Years

Wild Habitat: Grasslands, Savannahs, and Woodlands

Diet: carnivores, in captivity rats and mice are the most common food items.

Indigenous Habitat: this species lives in West African in a wide variety of habitats.

Home Habitat: adults should be housed in aquarium **at least 30 gallons** or larger, hides must be provided, as heat source at can hold a basking temperature of 90F is required and a cooler side is important also. Different things in the cage like branches, rocks, plants, will allow your snake to exhibit more behaviors. Bio-active tanks with water features are preferred, Spring Tails are “waste” management. No live plant “browse” restrictions as they are carnivores.

Recommended max time for handling: 30 minutes

Temperature Range: 68 degrees F – 95 degrees F

Transport: medium coolers with securely tied snake bags to make sure they don't escape

Restraint: Ball pythons are calm animals, so just support their bodies until they feel comfortable and relax

Handling: Can be a great candidate for handling, tend to be calm and don't mind being handled

Signs of Stress: hissing with mouth open, striking and biting, attempting to escape

Vocalization: Hissing

Interesting Facts: Ball pythons are also called “Royal Pythons”. They have heat seeking pits on the sides of their faces to help catch prey. Ball pythons are one of the most popular snakes as pets and come in a variety of mutations. Ball pythons get their names from their defensive habit of rolling up into a ball around their heads.

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1. Tidewater Reptile Association at <http://www.freewebs.com/tidewaterreptileassociation/>
2. Central Virginia Reptile Rescue at <http://carmendenali79.wix.com/centralvareptilerescue>
3. For questions or concerns you may have about your pets or where to adopt contact The Bunny Hutch at Info@TheBunnyHutch.ORG or call (866) 488-4248.

