
 15-30 years

 2-5+ ft.

 Beginner

 80-85 degrees

 Rodents



The ball python is quite simply the most popular pet snake in the world. Ball pythons are a bit shy, but they make ideal captive snakes. They stay relatively small, are friendly, manageable, and come in a remarkable array of colors and patterns. Ball pythons are known for their gentle nature. These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet. Please do your research and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

TANK SET UP

Ball pythons must have a well-ventilated home, with space to roam, a warm/hot side, and a cool side. A minimum 20 gallon long tank is recommended for young to sub-adult ball pythons. while a 40 gallon would be a good fit for the adult ball python.

BEDDING

ZooMed Forest Floor Cypress bedding, eco-earth bedding, or a mixture of both makes a great substrate. You may also use repti-carpet, however, the carpet does not help the humidity in the tank.

TEMPERATURE

An ambient temperature of 80-85°F, with a warm side of 90-95°F is good for ball pythons. Night time temperatures can fall to 70°F. Reptitherm under tank heaters, suitable for the tank size, may be placed underneath the outside of the tank. Remember, ball pythons self-regulate their body temperature, and need the correct temperature variance in the tank in order to do so. If the room is exceptionally cool, you may use a ceramic heat emitter, along with the heat pad.

LIGHTING

No special UVB lighting requirements are necessary. A blue day bulb in the day time and a red light at night, may be used to simulate the day/night cycle.

HUMIDITY

The snake needs a water dish large enough for it to soak in whenever necessary. Keep the humidity between 55%-65% during normal temperatures. During the snake's shed, you may need to keep the humidity higher. A moist hide, with sphagnum moss or cypress bedding helps keep humidity at an acceptable level. Mist the bedding lightly on a daily basis, and soak the ball python in lukewarm water once a week to keep hydrated properly.

FEEDING

Live or frozen/thawed mice or rats. Choose the size of the rodent depending on the size of the snake. Normally ball pythons will eat every 10-14 days. *****Snakes being fed live rodents must be monitored closely, until the rodent is no longer a threat to the snake. A live mouse or rat can cause considerable damage to a snake if left unattended.**

CLEANING

Snakes are very easy to take care of. They leave messes in their tanks several days after they have eaten and digested their meals. Thoroughly clean the tank, replace soiled bedding, and wash all dishes and accessories.