
 15-30 years

 2-5+ feet

 Beginner

 70-85° F

 Rodents



Kingsnakes are one of the most popular pet snakes among reptile keepers. They have a great temperament, don't mind being handled, and have relatively basic needs in captivity. These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet. Please do your research, and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

#### TANK SET UP

Kingsnakes can reach up to 4 feet in length, similar in size to a corn snake. A 20 gallon long, or larger, terrarium with secure locking screen lid, is adequate for an adult. Kingsnakes are known for their ability to escape through small areas. A locking lid is a necessity!

**NOTE: DO NOT HOUSE KINGSNAKES TOGETHER WITH OTHER SNAKES. KINGSNAKES WILL EAT SNAKES.**

#### BEDDING

California Kingsnakes do much better on a dry substrate, such as Aspen or sani-chips. Cyprus mulch, sold for reptiles, and Repti-carpet can also be used, but needs to be kept dry.

#### TEMPERATURE

Kingsnakes thermoregulate, and will need a hot side of 85° F and a cool side of 70°F in their enclosure. These temperatures can be achieved with a heat emitter or red bulb on the screen top, and an under-tank heat pad on the hot side. On the cool side, a moist hide with moss will keep the kingsnake cool when needed, and will help with shedding.

#### LIGHTING

Kingsnakes have no special lighting requirements, as long as they are in a room with natural light. Do not put the terrarium too close to a window, as the cage can overheat very quickly and be fatal to the snake.

#### HUMIDITY

Kingsnakes need low humidity. Do not fill the water bowl too high that it overflows when the snake is soaking in it. This will cause the substrate to become too wet and mold will form. If the snake is having issues shedding properly, a moist hide with moss will be helpful.

#### FEEDING

Live or frozen/thawed mice. Choose the size of the rodent depending on the size of the snake. Kingsnakes normally eat once a week, if the previous meal has been digested and passed. **\*\*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.