

## Shopping list– The Basics

- Appropriately size habitat (at least a 20L as juveniles & 40+ gallon as adults)
- Screen top
- Substrate
- Hiding caves
- Reptile cage thermometers
- Large shallow water dish
- Branches & climbing décor
- Moss
- Basking bulb and fixture
- Nighttime heat bulb & fixture
- Timer for light fixtures
- Under-tank heater mat
- Hydrometer
- Spray bottle for misting
- Frozen or live rodents
- Feeding tongs

## Habitat

Pick a **habitat** that is appropriate for your ball python. 20L terrarium for juveniles and 40+ gallon terrarium for adults. Use a screen lid that locks to insure the snake stays inside the terrarium.

**Every reptile** requires a 8-12 hour light/dark cycle. Ball pythons are nocturnal and spend most daytime hours hidden. Use a basking bulb to provide sufficient daytime light.

**Humidity** level needs to be kept between 50-60%.

**Temperature** for ball pythons:

- Day cool side: 80-85 °F
- Day warm side: 90 °F
- Nighttime: 70-80 °F
- Place a thermometer at each end of the habitat to monitor.

Provide hiding spots on the cool side of the terrarium and branches/ climbing trees on the warm side.

Use an **aspen or reptile carpet** for the substrate in the terrarium. 2" thick should be sufficient for substrate.

## Get to know your Python

- **Average adult size:**  
Up to 5 feet long
- **Average life span:**  
About 30 years
- **Diet:**  
Carnivore
- **Habitat:**  
Temperate

## Nutrition

Ball pythons are carnivores, therefore eating consistently meat. A well balanced diet consists of appropriate sized frozen/live rodents. If frozen, the rodents need to be thawed/ warmed to above room temperature.

If feeding your snake live rodents, make sure to observe the snake and rodent. Live rodents can injure the snake.

Feed juveniles once or twice weekly. Adults every one or two weeks. Make sure to feed in a separate tank so that your snake doesn't associate your hand to feeding or habitat as feeding time.

## Grooming & Health

Ensure that the humidity level is at a proper level. This will help your snake shed regularly. To help with shedding process, make sure a shallow water dish is full with water inside the habitat so that the snake can submerge his entire body.

### Signs of a healthy ball python:

- Clear, alert eyes (except when shedding)
- Eats regularly
- Healthy skin
- Sheds regularly
- Sheds skin in one complete piece
- Active and alert

### Warning signs to watch for:

- Abnormal feces
- Vomiting
- Lethargic or reluctant to eat
- Difficulty shedding or abnormal shedding

## Experience Level: intermediate

# Ball Python

## care guide



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**Always supervise children when they are interacting with your ball python.**

**Give your pet 3 to 4 days to adjust to his new surroundings, then try holding him for short amounts of time. Take care to support the entire body of the snake.**

*This care guide contains only general information and tips for proper care. Speak with a Pet Depot sales associate or veterinarian with questions concerning your pet's health.*

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