



Wet Pets N Critters

Hognose Snake Care Guide

(*Heterodon spp.*)

Hognose snakes are small, fascinating snakes known for their upturned snouts, dramatic defensive displays, and calm nature. They make excellent beginner-friendly pets and can live **12–18 years** with proper care.

Housing

- **Enclosure Size:**
 - A **20-gallon long tank** is ideal for an adult hognose snake.
 - Secure, escape-proof lid required.
- **Substrate:**
 - Use **aspen bedding, coconut fiber, or reptile-safe substrate** (available at Wet Pets N Critters). Hognoses love to burrow, so provide a substrate depth of **2–4 inches**.
- **Hides:**
 - Provide at least **two hides**—one on the warm side, one on the cool side.
- **Decor:**
 - Add **branches, artificial plants, and a shallow water dish** for enrichment.

Temperature & Heating

- **Basking Spot:** 85–90°F
- **Cool Side:** 70–75°F
- **Nighttime Temperature:** Can drop to 65–70°F
- **Heating:** Use an **under-tank heat mat with thermostat** or a **ceramic heat emitter** (both available at Wet Pets N Critters). Avoid heat rocks.
- Use a **digital thermometer** to monitor temperatures.

Lighting

Hognose snakes **do not require UVB lighting**, but a **12-hour light/dark cycle** using natural light or a low-wattage bulb is recommended.

Humidity

- Maintain humidity at **30–50%**.

- Mist lightly if needed and provide a **humidity hide** (lined with damp moss) to assist with shedding.

Diet

Hognose snakes are **carnivores**. Feed appropriately sized **frozen/thawed mice** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).

- **Hatchlings:** Every 5–7 days
- **Juveniles:** Every 7–10 days
- **Adults:** Every 10–14 days

Prey size should match the snake's girth.

Water

Provide a **shallow water dish** with fresh water at all times. Change water daily.

Cleaning & Maintenance

- Spot-clean waste as needed.
- Replace substrate every 4–6 weeks.
- Clean the enclosure monthly with a **reptile-safe cleaner** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).
- Clean the water dish daily.

Handling

Hognose snakes are generally calm and tolerate handling well. Handle gently and regularly, but avoid handling right after feeding. Be aware they may bluff by hissing or flattening their neck—this is harmless and part of their natural defense.

Health Tips

A healthy hognose snake should:

- Be alert and active
- Eat regularly
- Shed in one complete piece
- Have clear eyes and smooth skin

Contact a reptile-savvy veterinarian if you notice weight loss, refusal to eat (outside of shedding), or breathing issues.

Supplies Checklist (Available at Wet Pets N Critters)

- 20-gallon long tank
- Secure screen lid
- Under-tank heat mat with thermostat or ceramic heat emitter
- Digital thermometer
- Aspen bedding, coconut fiber, or reptile-safe substrate
- Hides (2 or more)
- Water dish

- Branches and plants
- Frozen/thawed mice
- Humidity hide (optional)
- Reptile-safe cleaner