



Wet Pets N Critters

Ball Python Care Guide

Ball pythons (*Python regius*) are one of the most popular pet snakes. They are known for their calm nature, manageable size, and unique patterns. With proper care, they can live **20–30 years** in captivity.

Housing

- **Enclosure:**
 - Hatchlings: 10–20 gallon tank
 - Adults: 40-gallon tank or larger
 - A secure screen lid is essential
- **Substrate:**
 - Aspen bedding, cypress mulch, or coconut fiber (available at Wet Pets N Critters)
- **Hides:**
 - Provide at least two **reptile hides** (one on the warm side, one on the cool side)
 - Hides are important for helping your snake feel safe
- **Climbing & Enrichment:**
 - Add low branches, artificial plants, or reptile-safe decor for enrichment

Temperature & Humidity

- **Warm Side:** 88–92°F
- **Cool Side:** 75–80°F
- **Nighttime:** Do not let temps drop below 72°F
- **Humidity:** 50–60% (increase to 65–70% during shedding)

Use a **heat mat with thermostat** or a **ceramic heat emitter** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) to maintain proper temperatures. Avoid heat rocks, as they can cause burns.

Lighting

Ball pythons do not require UVB lighting, but a regular **12-hour light/dark cycle** is important. A low-wattage bulb or ambient light is enough.

Diet

- Feed **appropriately sized frozen/thawed mice or rats** (available at Wet Pets N Critters)
- Hatchlings: Feed once a week
- Adults: Feed every 10–14 days

Prey should be about the same width as the snake's widest point.

Water & Hydration

Provide a **reptile water dish** large enough for the snake to soak in. Change the water daily and clean the dish regularly.

Cleaning & Maintenance

- Spot-clean waste as needed
 - Replace substrate every 4–6 weeks
 - Clean the enclosure and accessories with **reptile-safe cleaners** (available at Wet Pets N Critters)
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Health Tips

A healthy ball python should:

- Eat regularly
- Shed in one complete piece
- Have clear eyes (except during shedding)
- Breathe quietly

If your snake stops eating, has trouble shedding, or shows signs of respiratory illness (like wheezing), seek advice.

Handling

Ball pythons are generally calm and can be handled regularly. Always support the snake's body, handle gently, and avoid handling during shedding or right after feeding.

Supplies Checklist (Available at Wet Pets N Critters)

- Enclosure (10–40 gallon tank)
- Screen lid
- Heat mat with thermostat or ceramic heat emitter
- Thermometer and hygrometer
- Two reptile hides
- Reptile water dish
- Reptile-safe substrate (aspen, cypress, coconut fiber)
- Reptile-safe cleaner
- Feeding tongs

- Frozen/thawed mice or rats
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