



Wet Pets N Critters

Kingsnake Care Guide

(Common Pet Species: California Kingsnake, Mexican Black Kingsnake, Florida Kingsnake)

Kingsnakes are hardy, beautiful snakes known for their striking patterns and calm temperaments. They make excellent beginner reptiles and can live **15–20 years** with proper care.

Housing

- **Enclosure Size:**
 - A **20-gallon long tank** is suitable for a juvenile; a **40-gallon** or larger is best for an adult.
- **Enclosure Type:**
 - Use a **secure, escape-proof tank** with a **tight-fitting screen lid**—kingsnakes are known escape artists!
- **Substrate:**
 - Use **aspen bedding, coconut fiber, or reptile-safe substrate** (available at Wet Pets N Critters). Provide **2–3 inches** of substrate for burrowing.
- **Hides:**
 - Provide at least **two hides**—one on the warm side, one on the cool side.
- **Decor:**
 - Add **branches, rocks, and artificial plants** for climbing and enrichment.

Temperature & Heating

- **Basking Spot:** 85–90°F
- **Cool Side:** 75–80°F
- **Nighttime Temperature:** 70–75°F
- **Heating:** Use an **under-tank heat mat with thermostat** or a **ceramic heat emitter** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).
- Use a **digital thermometer** to monitor temperatures.

Lighting

Kingsnakes **do not require UVB lighting**, but a **12-hour light/dark cycle** helps regulate their natural rhythms.

Humidity

- Maintain humidity at **40–60%**.
- Mist lightly if needed, but avoid overly damp conditions.
- Provide a **humidity hide** with damp moss to assist with shedding.

Diet

Kingsnakes are **carnivores**. Feed appropriately sized **frozen/thawed rodents** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).

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

Prey should be no wider than the widest part of the snake's body.

Water

Provide a **shallow water dish** large enough for soaking. Change water daily and keep it clean.

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).
- Wash water and food dishes daily.

Handling

Kingsnakes are generally calm and tolerate handling well.

- Handle gently and regularly to keep them tame.
- Always support their body fully and avoid handling after feeding (wait at least 48 hours).

Health Tips

A healthy kingsnake should:

- Be alert and active
- Have bright, clear eyes
- Shed in one complete piece
- Eat regularly

Contact a reptile-savvy veterinarian if you notice:

- Loss of appetite (outside of shedding)
- Incomplete sheds
- Breathing issues or discharge

Supplies Checklist (Available at Wet Pets N Critters)

- 20–40 gallon tank
- Secure screen lid
- Under-tank heat mat with thermostat or ceramic heat emitter
- Digital thermometer
- Aspen, coconut fiber, or reptile-safe substrate
- Hides (2 or more)

- Water dish
 - Climbing decor (branches, rocks, artificial plants)
 - Frozen/thawed rodents
 - Humidity hide (optional)
 - Reptile-safe cleaner
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