

## BC's Balls Ball Python Care Sheet

In general Ball Pythons are very easy to care for and do very well in captivity when their husbandry needs are met. At BC's Balls we require the following criteria be met in order to receive assistance and-or in order to qualify for any guarantees written or verbal:

- Your Ball Python enclosure should be appropriately sized tub or tank. Recommendation is to use a tub or rack system, but a tank can be made to work. A hatchling needs no more room than a 6qt tub or a 10-gallon tank maximum. Subadults and adult males can move to a 28qt tub or 20-gal tank with only females over 2000g needing a 41qt tub or 40-gallon tank. Keep in mind these are reclusive animals by instinct and most problems arise from stress from insecurity
- Your Ball Python always needs proper heat and humidity. A perfect heating scheme is a heating gradient of 78-80 ambient temp on the cool end and 84-86 on the warm end with a basking hotspot of 88-90 surface temperature. Humidity should remain constant throughout at 65-75%. Lower humidity is far worse than higher. We shoot for 70% in all our enclosures. A Ball Python is primarily nocturnal and live in termite mounds in the wild. Light is stressful to them and unnecessary. If you choose to use a tank a Ceramic Heat Emitter on a dimmer is much preferable to a heat lamp as a heating source
- If using a Tank or stand-alone tub (not a rack system) then ample hides should be provided on both the cool side and the warm side. Usually one on each end is enough. Avoid the use of wood in your enclosures and Ball Pythons need no climbing limbs they are terrestrial animals.
- ANY heat source should be regulated by a quality thermostat WITH THE PROBE IN CONTACT WITH THE HEAT TAPE OR PAD and NEVER inside your enclosure or you will risk a burn to your snake. We recommend Herpstat or Vivarium Electronics. These are the only two we will use.
- Handling should be at a bare minimum until your Ball Python is acclimated and established feeding in his-her new home. We recommend no handling and attempting the first feeding 5-7 days after placing your new animal in its ready to go enclosure. If they refuse, wait 2-3 days and try again. At BC's Balls all our juveniles are fed live and transitioned to fresh killed when they move to larger weanlings. Most will make the switch to frozen thawed by that point if you prefer
- Never handle 24 hours before feeding and wait 48 hours after feeding to handle your new Ball Python and NEVER move to a different container or enclosure to feed.

These are just a few of the basic guidelines but there are many ways to do it right. We are here for you to help any way we can to enjoy your new Ball Python so do not hesitate to reach out should you have a question. There are a ton of great groups on Facebook we can recommend for further advice and to pick up tips on how to best care for your Ball Python.