

Kingsnake Care: The Complete Recovery Standard

1. The Enclosure: Security & Space

While juveniles can start in 20-gallon tanks, adults thrive in a minimum **4x2x2ft enclosure**. They are active explorers that utilize their vertical space if provided with sturdy, naturalistic climbing branches. Enclosures must have a locking, heavy-duty lid as they are masters of escape.

2. Thermal Gradient & Humidity

Maintain a cool side of 72–76°F and a warm basking spot of 85–88°F. Use a thermostat with **all** heat sources to prevent thermal burns. Overhead heat (DHP or CHE) is preferred to create a naturalistic basking zone. Maintain 40–50% humidity.

3. Nutrition: The "Bottomless Pit" Rule

Kingsnakes are notorious for their voracious appetites; stick to a strict schedule (Juveniles: every 7–10 days; Adults: every 14–21 days) to prevent obesity. **Never house two kingsnakes together**, as they will eventually attempt to eat one another.

***THE REALITY CHECK:** Kingsnakes are a 15–20 year commitment. They are active, powerful, and intelligent animals. Their voracious appetite requires disciplined feeding, and their instinct to consume other snakes means they must always live alone.*

4. Health: Recovery Red Flags

- **Respiratory Infection:** Clicking or wheezing sounds, often caused by high humidity.

- **Regurgitation:** A major medical event. Do not feed for two weeks, keep them quiet, and consult an exotic vet.
- **Inappetence:** Check temperatures first; if correct, it may indicate internal parasites.

5. Enrichment & Sustainability

Sustainability tip: Use heavy, repurposed ceramic mugs or food-safe plastic containers as high-quality hides. Ensure all decor is heavy enough that it cannot be knocked over.

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