

Here are some key tips for successfully breeding Western hognose snakes:

1. You **MUST** brumate (hibernate) the adults. Place them in a smaller sterilite box they can't open with paper towel or substrate and water. They will continue to take water so make sure they stay hydrated throughout the entire brumation. Place them in the dark at around 52-55 degrees. *If they don't brumate, you greatly reduce the success rate of the clutch. It's an absolute must-do.* We now do late December to mid March. The result this year, so far, is a double clutch totaling 34 good eggs! We didn't brumate the year before, and only two made it out alive.
2. Give the adults about 3-4 weeks to get back to good weight after their winter nap. When you put them together, it won't take long for the lock. You can intermittently put the male with the female a few times a week for not more than 2-3 weeks. That should definitely be enough. Some do "one-and-done" but we like to be sure there will be viable eggs.
3. Place a hatch box in with the female, with some sphagnum moss and keep it moderately humid. You can use a small take-out container and put a hole in the side or the lid for her to come and go as she needs. The best I've found is from the 99 Restaurant!
4. Once she lays, get the eggs out ASAP. One time our girl literally turned into Pac-Man and ate the entire clutch of eggs right after she laid. It can happen so just be aware.
5. Get a sterilite shoebox sized plastic bin. Add equal parts of vermiculite and water, 200 grams each.
6. Keep the eggs off of the vermiculite mix by getting a sheet of egg crate and cutting it to size. Place that into the sterilite box and the eggs on top. If you put them directly into the substrate, they can actually drown from too much direct contact with water/moisture.

7. Use your phone's flash light or a flashlight to "candle" the eggs. Look for the embryo. It'll be a small orange-red spot with veins in and about the area. Mark the egg with a sharpie on top where the embryo is. Make sure the embryo stays facing up.

8. I use an old refrigerator that I placed a heat emitter into with a thermostat. The temp sits between 83-86 degrees. You should see hatchlings in about 48-55 days. This worked so well that our girl may even triple clutch! Good luck!



[Figure 1](#) Property CjC Exotics (c) 2020

Note Fig. 1 above- you'll notice there's no egg crate because we take it out after the first baby pips. This is to ensure they don't tangle themselves up in it! 😊