

# Family Reptiles

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## Ball Pythons

### General Information:

Ball Pythons reach a size of 3 to 5 feet in length. They make great pets for children, as they are very docile and easy to handle. Baby Ball Pythons can strike on occasion, but this is usually because they fear their surroundings. They must create a new bond with their new owners. Holding your new pet more will help make them relax. They need love!

### Enclosure Size:

In the wild, Ball Pythons live in holes in the ground. This dark small area makes them feel secure. As the Ball Python grows, you will increase the size of the enclosure. As a baby, you should start with 10-gallon set-up. At full size, you should need nothing bigger than a 20 to 40-gallon size tank.

### Substrate:

Your Ball Python can live on many different bedding types. The best would be Aspen Shavings. Newspaper works well, but does not absorb the odor very well. DO NOT use Cedar or Pine shavings. These put off toxic oil that is bad for the snake. Be sure that your substrate stays dry. You can mist the snake on occasion to help with shedding, but keep the bedding dry.

### Lighting/Heating:

Ball Pythons do not require any UV, UVA, or UVB lighting. In the wild, they bask in the sun for warmth and digest food. Lighting for your pet Ball Python would be optional but heating is a MUST. Heat lamps would be safer for a beginner reptile keeper. Heat pads WILL cause burns or death if not used properly. A temp of 85 to 93 Degrees is perfect for healthy living. It's ok to shut your lamp off at night if your house temp is not too cold. Leave lamp on 24 hours after feeding to help with proper digest of food. There are many different heating options on the market, as long as they stay 85 to 93 Degrees.

### Feeding:

Ball Pythons require a once per week feeding. This can be rats, soft furs, or mice. Ball Pythons are not cage aggressive animals and can be fed in their enclosure. Allow several hours for the animal to eat. If they refuse the meal, try again the next week. Healthy pythons can go months without eating. This may occur in the winter months or breeding season. If your snake does not eat after several attempts, there could be a stress issue such as temps, cage to big, distractions, or wrong size/type feeder, etc.

### First Feeding:

After a week of adjusting to its new home and you get a LIVE small adult mouse or mouse hopper and drop it into its tank/home in the early evening. Bigger feeder for bigger snakes. Leave the room for two hours and come back to check all the tank. If not eaten, remove feeder from tank and try again in few days. If ate, leave alone to digest for day. Once the snake has eaten for you a few times, you may try to switch over to pre-killed if that's what you want to do. ALL reptiles from Family Reptiles are eating live.

### Cleaning:

Clean the cage once per week and spot clean during the week if required. Replace the bedding that is dirty as you don't need to dump all the bedding. Be sure they have plenty of clean water as this needs to be changed twice a week. Use water and paper towels to clean the inside of the cages.

### Need Help?

PLEASE call us if you are having issues so that we may be able to better assist you. We are here to help! Sorry, there is no warranty once an animal leaves our care.

## Ball Python Care Sheet