



# Ball Python Care Guide

When caring for ball pythons, it's essential to provide them with a suitable environment and proper husbandry.

1. **Enclosure:** Use a secure enclosure that is appropriately sized for the snake. A 20-gallon long tank is suitable for juveniles, while adults require a 40-gallon breeder tank. Provide a suitable substrate, such as aspen shavings or coconut husk bedding, to maintain humidity.
2. **Temperature and humidity:** Maintain a warm side temperature of around 88-96°F (31-36°C) with a cooler side around 78-80°F (25-27°C). It's important to provide a temperature gradient to allow the snake to thermoregulate. Keep the humidity levels between 50-60% and 60-70% during shedding.
3. **Feeding:** Ball pythons are opportunistic feeders and typically eat small rodents. After bringing home a new ball python, it's generally recommended to wait at least a week before attempting to feed them to allow them to acclimate to their new environment.
4. **Handling:** Handle your ball python gently and minimally, especially during the first few weeks to allow them to settle in. Too much handling can stress the snake.
5. **Health monitoring:** Keep an eye on your ball python's health, behavior, and appearance. Watch for signs of illness, like respiratory issues or lack of appetite, and consult a reptile veterinarian if you notice any concerns.

By providing a suitable environment, monitoring their health, and being mindful of their feeding habits, you can help ensure the well-being of your ball python.