

Spotted Python Care Sheet



PROFILE

Common Name: **Spotted Python**

Latin Name: **Antaresia maculosa**

Native To: **Australia**

Size: **3-3.5ft**

Life Span: **20+ Years**

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Environment:

Arid woodland with numerous hiding places and strong branches to climb on

Vivarium Size:

We recommend a minimum size vivarium of 36x15x15 with plenty of climbing opportunities.

Substrate:

We recommend a substrate of forest floor, cypress mulch or arcadia earthmix for spotted pythons as they have high water retention; helping to raise humidity in the vivarium, and they look natural. More standard, easy to clean options are available but we have found that a high quality substrate will hold humidity and aid in shedding and enrichment.

Food and Water:

Water should be provided at all times. Spotted pythons like a large water bowl to soak in throughout the day, especially when they are due to shed. We recommend that this water is changed regularly.

Spotted pythons, like all pythons, are strictly carnivorous and will therefore need to be fed a diet of mice and rats. A pinkie or fuzzy mouse fed once a week will be suitable for hatchling pythons whereas adults can consume jumbo mice – medium rats, chicks, multimammates, gerbils and hamsters.

Spotted Python's are notorious as fantastic feeders. There are practically no records of spotted pythons refusing a feed unless there is a problem with the husbandry or illness with the animal.

We strongly recommend feeding only pre-killed prey items. It is now illegal to feed live prey to snakes in the U.K. as, not only is it unethical, if the snake is not hungry and does not wish to feed, the mouse will turn on the snake and start biting away at it – often leading to infections and death.

Heat/Light Requirements:

Like the majority of other snakes, spotted pythons do not require UV radiation. More often than not, spotted pythons will hide away from it, due to them being nocturnal animals.

Spotted Pythons require 24 hour heating with one side of the vivarium being the designated 'cool' end and the other being the 'hot' or 'basking' area. This can be achieved by placing a heat source on one side of the vivarium.

As they are cold blooded animals, their body temperature is the same as that of the environment around them and therefore spotted Pythons will move around the vivarium until they find their optimum temperature. At night we recommend a temperature drop of about 5 - 8°C.

Below are the ideal temperatures for your Royal Python, all of which can be thermostatically controlled:

Day (cool end): 24 - 26°C

Day: (warm end): 30 - 31°C

Night: 20 - 24°C

Please note that this care sheet is only for your basic husbandry knowledge and that it is always recommended that you do further reading.

FURTHER READING

www.amazingamazon.com.au

Any Problems?

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

Or email us at shirley_reptiles@live.co.uk

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