

Western Hognose Care Sheet



PROFILE

Common Name: **Western Hognose**

Latin Name: **Heterodon nasicus**

Native To: **North America**

Size: **M:14-24" F:20-36"**

Life Span: **18 years**

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Environment:

Semi-arid areas with loose soil substrate. Almost always found around permanent water sources.

Vivarium Size:

Western Hognoses (Hoggies) as hatchlings can be kept in small faunariums. As adults they would need a 3ft wooden vivarium. Floor space is more important to this species than anything else as they are poor climbers. They do enjoy digging and it forms part of their natural behaviours as does the various threat displays that Hoggies use to discourage potential threats. Flattening of the neck (cobra style!), loud hissing through specialised bone formations of the skull, bluff strikes, headbutts and even playing dead.

Substrate:

Lignocel would be the best substrate for hatchling/juvenile Hoggies. It is easy to clean, making it easier to monitor your snake and allows for burrowing. As an adult we prefer to use naturalistic substrates and low wood and rock decorations.

Food and Water:

Hoggies are, like all snakes, predatory. In the wild they eat small rodents, lizards and bird eggs. Mostly though, they eat frogs and toads, using their long rear fangs to "pop" a swelled amphibian. They do have an excellent feeding response once established. Hoggies do not follow any standard set by other snakes and will take food at any angle, often chewing for 10 minutes or more to find the right angle to swallow. Prey items should be no wider than the width of the snakes head.

Heat/Light Requirements:

Hoggies are a diurnal species of colubrid and enjoy a basking spot and 10-12 hour photoperiod. UV lighting is not essential for these snakes but can benefit in replicating a naturalistic environment for them. As with all reptiles, Hoggies are exothermic, getting their heat for metabolism from external sources.

Listed below are the ideal temperatures that you will need to replicate for your Hognose:

Hot spot: 30 - 33°C

Cool end: 21 -24 °C

Night temperatures: 22 - 24°C

FURTHER READING:

www.reptilesmagazine.com

Any Problems?

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