

Blood Python Care Sheet



PROFILE

Common Name: **Blood python, short-tail blood python**

Latin Name: *Python brongersmai*

Native To: **Malaysia and Thailand**

Size: **4-6ft**

Life Span: **20+ Years**

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Environment:

Tropical woodland with numerous hiding places and dense foliage.

Vivarium Size:

We recommend a minimum size vivarium of 48x15x15 with plenty of clutter and hiding places.

Substrate:

We recommend a substrate of forest floor, cypress mulch or arcadia earthmix for blood 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. Blood pythons are almost completely terrestrial and do not need climbing opportunities, but will appreciate plenty of hiding places.

Food and Water:

Water should be provided at all times. Blood 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.

Blood pythons, like all snakes, are strictly carnivorous and will therefore need to be fed a diet of mice and rats. A fuzzy or

hopper mouse fed once a week will be suitable for hatchling pythons whereas adults can consume jumbo mice – medium rats, chicks, multimammates, gerbils and hamsters.

Blood Python's are notorious as fantastic feeders. There are practically no records of blood 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 UK. 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 to attack it – often leading to infections in the snake and death.

Heat/Light Requirements:

Blood 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 Blood 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 Blood Python, all of which can be thermostatically controlled:

Day (cool end): 26 - 28°C

Day: (warm end): 29 - 32°C

Night: 24 - 26°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.reptilesmagazine.com

Any Problems?

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

Or email us at shirley_reptiles@live.co.uk

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