

# Cape File snake care sheet



## PROFILE

*Common Name:* **Cape file snake**

*Latin Name:* ***Limafulmosa capensis***

*Native To:* **South Africa**

*Size:* **3-4'**

*Life Span:* **15-20 years**

## HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

### ***Environment:***

Found throughout sub-Saharan Africa, these snakes enjoy warm temperatures and mid-range humidity. Found in scrubland and semi-arid environments.

### ***Vivarium Size:***

A good base size vivarium for a file snake is 30x12x18", allowing for a good heat gradient and room to explore.

### ***Substrate:***

A good quality, soil/sand mix would be preferable for this species allowing for moderate water retention and digging opportunities. Arid earthmix works particularly well as it is comprised of both arid and tropical components.

## ***Food and Water:***

As with all snakes, house snakes are carnivorous and in the wild will predominantly prey on other snakes including mambas, vipers and cobras. In a captive environment, file snakes will happily accept defrosted rodent prey. From small mice and rats to gerbils and multimammates.

Water should be provided at all times in a dish big enough for the snake to soak in.

## ***Heat/Light Requirements:***

As with all reptiles, file snakes are exothermic getting all their metabolic heat from external sources. These snakes are primarily nocturnal and only require a background temperature of 25°C. UV lighting will be beneficial for this species, 5-6% being sufficient.

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

Hot spot: 25 - 26°C

Cool end: 20 - 23 °C

Night temperatures: 20 - 23°C

## **FURTHER READING:**

<http://www.reptilesmagazine.com/>

## ***Any Problems?***

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

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