

Texas Rat Snake care sheet



PROFILE

Common Name: Texas Rat Snake

Latin Name: *Elaphe obsoleta lindheimeri*

Native To: North America

Size: 4-6ft

Life Span: 20+ Years

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Environment:

Found throughout Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana, Texas rats are an adaptable snake capable of living in a variety of environments. From swamps to semi-arid deserts.

Vivarium Size:

We recommend a minimum size vivarium of 34x15x15 with plenty of places to hide for an adult. Hatchlings and juveniles should be kept in significantly smaller enclosures.

Substrate:

We recommend a substrate for desert dwelling reptiles, desert mix, leolife and utilising sands and rocks. With low branches and hides available.

Food and Water:

Water should be provided at all times. A bowl large enough for the snake to soak in will aid in shedding. Texas rat snakes, like all snakes, are carnivorous. In the wild they will eat anything of appropriate size that they can overpower. Rodents, lizards, birds, eggs and other snakes. In a

captive environment, Texas rats will feed on mice, rats, gerbils, hamsters, chicks and multimammates. We only recommend feeding 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:

Texas rats require 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 Texas rats will move around the vivarium until they find their optimum temperature. At night we recommend a temperature drop of about 5-10°C.

Below are the ideal temperatures for your Texas rat snake, all of which can be thermostatically controlled:

Day (cool end): 22-26°C

Day: (warm end): 29-31°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.reptilesmagazine.com

Any Problems?

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

Or email us at shirley_reptiles@live.co.uk

Shirley Aquatics
Becketts Farm
Alcester Road
Wythall
Birmingham
B47 6AJ

