



CAL ZOO'S REFERENCE SHEET

SNAKE CARE

| COMMON NAME Latin name | NATIVE TO | MAX SIZE | OPTIMUM TEMP. RANGE | FOOD | BEHAVIOR | SUBSTRATE | HEAT SOURCE | COMMERCIALY BRED IN CAPTIVITY/FARMS? | LAY EGGS OR LIVE BIRTH | COMMENTS |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BOA CONSTRICTOR <i>Boa constrictor</i> | CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA | 10-12 FEET | 83° - 88° | MICE, RATS & CHICKS | VERY DOCILE. MAKE EXCELLENT PETS. | PINE SHAVINGS OR ZOO MED REPTI-CARPET™ | UNDER TANK HEATER™ AND CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | YES | LIVE BIRTH | #1 SELLING BOID IN THE UNITED STATES. ALBINOS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU ARE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE! |
| SAND BOAS <i>Eryx</i> sp. | EAST AFRICA, EGYPT, INDIA & EUROPE | 3 FEET | 85° - 90° | PINKIE & FUZZY MICE | NON-AGGRESSIVE. | FINE SAND DEEP ENOUGH TO BURROW. | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | YES | LIVE BIRTH | WILL SURFACE FROM UNDER THE SAND TO CATCH THE PINKIE MICE! |
| TREE BOAS Emerald Tree & Amazon <i>Corallius</i> sp. | SOUTH AMERICA | 6-9 FEET | 82° - 85° | MICE, RATS & BIRDS | AGGRESSIVE BY NATURE. LIKES TO REST ON BRANCH FORKS. | ZOO MED REPTI-CARPET™ OR GREEN SPHAGNUM MOSS. | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | YES | LIVE BIRTH | SPRAY WITH LIGHT MIST FOR 5 MINUTES BEFORE FEEDING. |
| BURMESE PYTHONS Regular & Albino <i>Python molurus bivittatus</i> | MYANMAR, & SOUTH EAST ASIA | 15+ FEET | 85° | MICE, RATS, RABBITS & CHICKENS | SNAPPY AS HATCHLINGS. TAME QUICKLY. | PINE SHAVINGS OR ZOO MED REPTI-CARPET™ | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | YES | LAYS EGGS | #2 SELLING BOID IN THE UNITED STATES. BEAUTIFUL COLORS. ALBINOS NOW VERY AFFORDABLE. |
| RETICULATED PYTHON <i>Python reticulatus</i> | SOUTH EAST ASIA | 15+ FEET | 83° - 88° | MICE, RATS, RABBITS & CHICKENS | AGGRESSIVE AT FIRST. MELLOW WITH HANDLING. | PINE SHAVINGS OR ZOO MED REPTI-CARPET™ | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | NO | LAYS EGGS | EXTREMELY INTRICATE PATTERN, ORANGE EYES. |
| BALL PYTHON <i>Python regius</i> | WEST AFRICA | 6 FEET | 83° - 88° | MICE, RATS & GERBILS | ADULTS SHY EATERS, BABIES EAT WELL. | PINE SHAVINGS OR ZOO MED REPTI-CARPET™ | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | YES | LAYS EGGS | BABIES ONLY AVAILABLE APRIL-JULY. VERY DOCILE. |
| ANACONDAS Green & yellow <i>Eumeces</i> sp. | SOUTH AMERICA (Babies are captive raised in the USA) | GREEN 25 FEET YELLOW 12 FEET | 82° - 85° | MICE, RATS, BIRDS & FISH | AGGRESSIVE. PROVIDE LARGE WATER BOWL. THEY LIKE TO REST IN THE WATER. | ZOO MED REPTI-CARPET™ OR GREEN SPHAGNUM MOSS. | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | NO | LIVE BIRTH | USUALLY ONLY FEED IN THE WATER. |
| RATSNAKES Adults <i>Elaphe</i> sp. | UNITED STATES | 6 FEET | 75° - 85° | MICE & SMALL RATS | GREAT FEEDERS. BREED EASY IN CAPTIVITY. | PINE SHAVINGS OR ZOO MED REPTI-CARPET™ | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | YES | LAYS EGGS | ADULTS AVAILABLE ONLY IN SPRING/SUMMER. |
| RATSNAKES Babies <i>Elaphe</i> sp. | UNITED STATES | 6 FEET | 75° - 85° | PINKIE MICE | VERY MELLOW. MAKE GREAT 1ST SNAKE. | PINE SHAVINGS OR ZOO MED REPTI-CARPET™ | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | YES | LAYS EGGS | ONLY AVAILABLE JUNE-SEPT. |
| KINGSNAKES Adults <i>Lampropeltis getulus</i> sp. | UNITED STATES | 6 FEET | 75° - 85° | MICE | WILL EAT OTHER SNAKES! KEEP SEPARATE. | PINE SHAVINGS OR ZOO MED REPTI-CARPET™ | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | YES | LAYS EGGS | THEY GET THEIR NAME FROM THEIR ABILITY TO EAT OTHER SNAKES, INCLUDING RATSNAKES. |
| KINGSNAKES Babies <i>Lampropeltis getulus</i> sp. | UNITED STATES | 6 FEET | 75° - 85° | PINKIE MICE | WILL EAT OTHER SNAKES! KEEP SEPARATE. | PINE SHAVINGS OR ZOO MED REPTI-CARPET™ | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | YES | LAYS EGGS | ONLY AVAILABLE JUNE-SEPT. |
| SCARLET KINGSSNAKE <i>Lampropeltis t. elapsoides</i> | UNITED STATES | 2 FEET | 75° - 82° | MICE & GROUND SKINKS | VERY SHY. CAN KEEP TOGETHER IF SAME SIZE. | DAMP GREEN SPHAGNUM MOSS | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | YES | LAYS EGGS | PROVIDE A HIDING PLACE. |
| GARTER & RIBBON SNAKES <i>Thamnophis</i> sp. | UNITED STATES | 2-3 FEET | 72° - 78° | SMALL FISH & FROGS | VERY MELLOW. CAN KEEP TOGETHER. | PINE SHAVINGS OR ZOO MED REPTI-CARPET™ | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | NO | LIVE BIRTH | GREAT SNAKE FOR BEGINNERS. |
| GREEN SNAKE <i>Ophedryas</i> sp. | UNITED STATES | 3 FEET | 70° - 78° | SMALL CRICKETS | LIKES TO CLIMB. PROVIDE LOTS OF REPTI-VINES™. | DAMP GREEN SPHAGNUM MOSS | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | NO | LAYS EGGS | SHY EATERS. USUALLY EAT AT NIGHT. |
| HOGNOSE SNAKE Eastern, Southern & Western <i>Heterodon</i> sp. | UNITED STATES | 3 FEET | 75° - 80° | MICE & FROGS | FLATTENS HEAD LIKE COBRA WHEN THREATENED OR WILL PLAY DEAD. | PINE SHAVINGS OR ZOO MED REPTI-CARPET™ | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | NO | LAYS EGGS | VERY DOCILE. TAKE NOTE THAT ALL HOGNOSE SNAKES ARE REAR-FANGED. |
| BLOOD PYTHON <i>Python curtis</i> | SOUTH EAST ASIA | 5-6 FEET | 83° - 88° | MICE, RATS & BIRDS | BEAUTIFUL COLORS. AGGRESSIVE. | ZOO MED REPTI-CARPET™ OR GREEN SPHAGNUM MOSS. | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | YES | LAYS EGGS | LIKE HIGH HUMIDITY. |
| BULL & PINE SNAKES <i>Pituophis</i> sp. | UNITED STATES | 7 FEET | 78° - 82° | MICE & RATS | MAKES HISSING SOUND. SOUNDS LIKE RATTLESNAKE. | PINE SHAVINGS OR ZOO MED REPTI-CARPET™ | UNDER TANK HEATER™ OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER™ | NO | LAYS EGGS | RELATED TO GOPHER SNAKES. |

General comments: (1) Always feed snakes separately (for small snakes, try securing snake in paper bag with the food). (2) Always wash your hands after handling animals. (3) Use the "buddy system" when handling snakes over 10 feet long. (4) Dust all food items with Reptivite™ reptile vitamins to provide complete nutritional requirements. (5) White lights must be turned off at night. Use Zoo Med Ceramic Heat Emitter™ or Zoo Med Infrared Heat Lamp™ at night if temperature drops below recommended range. (7) For easy heat control, use a Zoo Med Repti-Temp Rheostat (8) When using wood shavings as a substrate, use only Pine or Fir. Don't use Cedar as it's oils are toxic to reptiles. This sheet may be copied in its entirety only.