



Bull Snake



OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Pituophis catenifer sayi*
- Origin: North and Central America
- Ease of Care: Intermediate
- Potential Adult Size: 4ft-6ft on average
- Life Span: Upwards of 30 years
- Behaviour: Diurnal
- Diet: Defrost Rodents and Poultry
- Handling: Intermediate
- Humidity: 50% to 60%

TOP TIPS

- ✓ Allow for a few inches of substrate to enable the species to burrow
- ✓ Provide a sturdy water-bowl due to the burrowing nature of the species

HOUSING

The Habistat Hatchling Snake Starter Kit (*HSSK*) is perfect until the Snake is around 1.5ft in length. As this contains a suitably sized 24x15x8 inch Terrainium, the required heating and safety equipment.

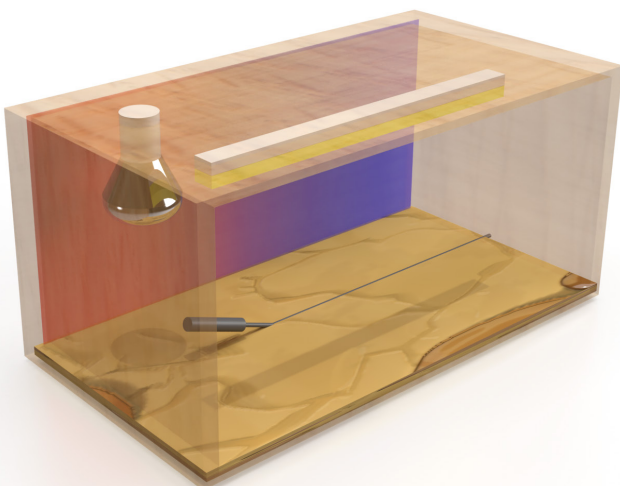
Once the Bull Snake has reached this size the HabiStat standard vivarium 48"x24"x24" (*DVF4824*), or the larger 60"x24"x24" (*DVF6024*) is ideal for the life of the species.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Housing: Vivarium
- Heating: Heat Bulb
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Jungle Bio, HabiStat Coir Block, Arcadia EarthMix Arid
- Water: Water Bowl

ENVIRONMENT

Terrestrial Vivarium Setup



Heating

Bull Snakes are diurnal animals and require a suitable light and heat gradient in their vivarium.

- Background Temp: 21°C-26°C (69°F-79°F)
- HOT Spot: 30°C (86°F)
- Night-Time Temp: 18°C-21°C (64°F-69°F)

Provide a hot area towards one side of the enclosure using an overhead heat source to offer a heat gradient.

Use an Arcadia Pro Ceramic Lamp Holder & Bracket (*RADCHP*) with a HabiStat Heat Bulb (*HBB100*) running in conjunction with a HabiStat Dimming Thermostat (*HTDW*).

Dimming thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the animal.

Maintain night-time temperatures using a HabiStat Ceramic (**HBC60**) running in conjunction with a HabiStat Pulse Stat (**HTPW**) if they are dropping below the recommended night-time heat levels.

A Spotlight Guard should be used to surround the heat bulb to prevent the animal coming into direct contact with the heat source.

Check temperatures regularly, using a reliable dual thermometer and hygrometer to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

Lighting

Fit an Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit 6% (**RARTP39F**) on the inside-roof of the vivarium. This will maintain required UVB levels.

Ensure that it is fitted correctly and within the manufacturer's recommended distances.

Substrate and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your enclosure, but we recommend the following as examples -

- HabiStat Jungle Bio (**HSJB10**), HabiStat Coir Block (**HSCB**), or Arcadia EarthMix Arid (**RAREA10**)
- Wood/branches/vines for climbing, hiding, and sleeping under
- Live or artificial plant decoration will provide darker areas for the Bull Snake to use as shelter

DIET & WATER

The Bull Snake enjoys a diet of defrosted rodents and poultry in captivity.

Always provide a source of fresh water. The HabiStat Sandstone Water Dish (**HRSSCL**) is a safe and sturdy choice.

Maintain the correct humidity levels by misting the enclosure as required.

SUPPLEMENTATION

Bull Snakes do not require additional supplementation in the form of a calcium and multi-vitamin powder if their diet is kept varied.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- When choosing your substrate, bear in mind that this species of Snake likes to dig and burrow.
- A sturdy water bowl is essential, so it doesn't get knocked over when the Snake is burrowing.

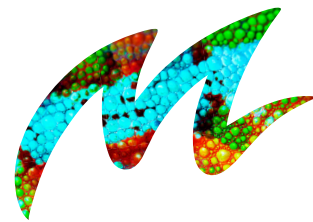
HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your animal healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	Change old water for fresh water	Spot clean	Check vents on enclosure are not blocked and allow air to pass through freely
Weekly	Disinfect water bowl or dish	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build up and to allow any dirty bedding to be removed	Wipe down glass and walls with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Take out old substrate and replace with new substrate	Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling your Bull Snake, their food, enclosure, and any other equipment.



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