



Kingsnake



OVERVIEW



- Ease of Care: Beginner
- Size: 4 ft on average
- Life Span: Up to 20 years
- Diet: Rodents
- Temperament: Friendly
- Background Temp: 23-31°C (74-88°F)
- HOT Spot: 30-31°C (86-88°F)

TOP TIPS

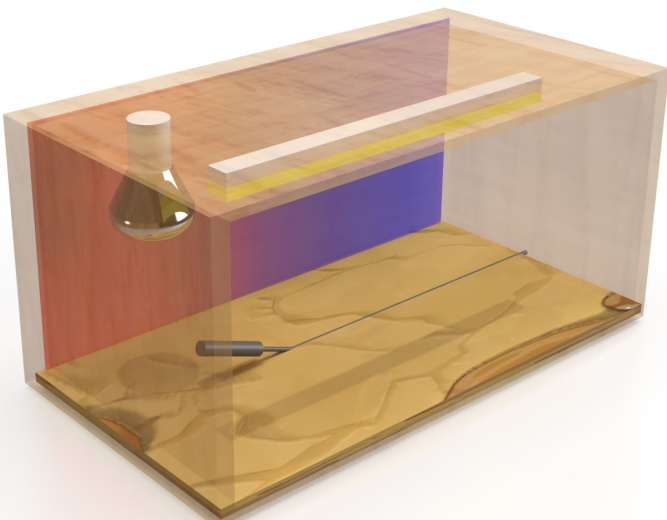
- ✓ After feeding, let your snake digest its meal for 48/72 hours before any handling.
- ✓ If your snake refuses to feed, try offering a smaller or larger food item.
- ✓ A Kingsnake will normally refuse its food when it is about to shed, so wait until the snake has fully shed before offering food.
- ✓ A bad shed is normally a sign of something wrong in the snake's environment.
- ✓ If your snake has a bad shed, try soaking it in lukewarm water and removing any left-over skin.
- ✓ Make sure any Vivarium vents are facing inward. This way, they can't be pushed out allowing the snake to escape.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Housing: Terrainium or Vivarium
- Heating: Heat Mat, Ceramic Heat Bulb or Deep Heat Projector (depending on setup size)
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Orchid Bark (HSO10M) or Arcadia EarthMix Arid (RAREA10)
- Water: Water Dish

ENVIRONMENT

Terrestrial Vivarium Setup



Heating

Kingsnake are an ectothermic (cold-blooded) animal, so they take all their heat requirements from external sources.

Different heat sources are required depending on the type of housing selected.

Heating a Vivarium

To provide an appropriate heat source in a Vivarium, we recommend using a 100w heat bulb or Deep Heat Projector that is thermostatically controlled.

The HabiStat 100w heat bulb (HBB100) or Arcadia Deep Heat Projector (RARHP80) should be set up using a ceramic bulb holder, which can be hung from the roof of the vivarium, approximately 15-

HOUSING

A relevant sized Terrainium or Vivarium offer the ideal housing solutions for a Kingsnake dependant on size/age.

Baby Kingsnake:

Monkfield Terrainium, L90 x D38 x H20cm (36 x 15 x 8") (DVTE36)

Juvenile/Adult Kingsnake:

Monkfield Standard Vivarium, L91 x D46 x H46cm (36 x 18 x 18) (DVF36)

Monkfield Standard Vivarium, L122 x D61 x H61cm (48 x 24 x 24") (DVF4824)

20cms from one side.

The 100w heat bulb or Deep Heat Projector should be used 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 snake. The probe should be positioned on the floor in the basking area and the probe cable should be taped to the floor 2-8cm (1-3") back from the actual probe sensor. This will ensure an accurate temperature reading and prevent the probe becoming dislodged. Carefully place the substrate on top of the probe cable leaving just the probe above the surface.

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

Heating a Terrarium

To replicate these conditions in a Terrarium, we recommend using a HabiStat heat mat (HHM11) that is thermostatically controlled as a heat source. The heat mat should be inserted into the glass holder located in the base of the Terrarium to ensure that the Kingsnake does not come directly into contact with it.

The heat mat should be used in conjunction with the HabiStat heat mat thermostat (HTMW1).

Heat mat 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 snake. Insert the probe through the back of the Terrarium via the rubber grommet and tape directly onto the glass panel above the heat mat. The probe cable should be taped 2-5cm (1-2") back from the actual

probe sensor to allow for a correct temperature reading and avoid it becoming dislodged. Carefully place the substrate on top.

Temperature and Monitoring

As a rough guide, daytime temperatures should be between 23-31°C (74-88°F) with the hot end up to 30-31°C (86-87.8°F) going down to 23°C-25°C (74°F-77°F) at the cooler end of the enclosure.

Night-time temperatures should be allowed to drop to 20°C-23°C (68°F-74°F) throughout.

Make sure temperatures are checked regularly with a 2x probed thermometers (one in both the hot and cooler ends) to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

Lighting

UV lighting should be provided throughout its life. The UVB required will vary depending of setup size. An example would be the Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit 6% (RARTP39F). Ensure that it is fitted correctly and securely overhead to avoid any injuries to the snake.

Substrates and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your Terrarium or vivarium, but we recommend the following as a guide:

- 1) Substrates: A dry and non-dusty substrate such as Habistat Orchid Bark (HSO10M) & Arcadia EarthMix Arid (RAREA10), that is easy to spot clean.
- 2) Wood and branches for hiding under, crawling on and to help with shedding.
- 3) Artificial or live plants for decoration and to provide darker areas for the Kingsnake to hide away.
- 4) Hide to allow the snake to hide away if it chooses to and give it an area to feel safe and secure.

DIET & WATER

Hatchlings through to Adults should be offered appropriately sized defrosted feeders. As a general rule, the feed size offered to your snake should be no larger in diameter than 1-1.5 times the width of the snake at its widest point.

Fresh clean water must be accessible at all times. The water source should be positioned at the cool end of the environment to prevent the water from evaporating quickly and causing an unwanted humidity increase.

SUPPLEMENTATION

Kingsnake do not require additional supplementation. But the occasional light sprinkling (few times yearly) with a multivitamin on the chosen rodent can be beneficial

HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Kingsnake 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 remove any dirty bedding	Wipe down glass and walls with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Full substrate change	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 or feeding your Kingsnake, their food, enclosure and any other equipment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



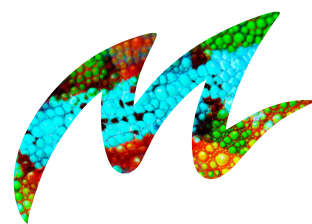
A Kingsnake will shed its skin every so often, depending on how big the snake is - and how quickly its growing. As a rule, a young snake will shed every 3 to 6 weeks, and an older snake every 2 to 6 months.

The best way to tell that your Kingsnake is going to shed its skin is to look at its general colour and eyes. The Kingsnake will appear duller than normal and may have a washed out look. This will become more obvious as the Kingsnake nears shedding its skin. The snake's eyes will appear clouded at first and will eventually turn a bluey/grey colour. Normal colouration will return once the Kingsnake has shed its skin.

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