

Royal Python Care Sheet



Overview

- Scientific Name: *Python regius*
- Origin: West & Central Africa
- Ease of Care: Beginner
- Potential Adult Size: 4ft to 5ft
- Life Span: 20 years
- Behaviour: Crepuscular
- Diet: Carnivore
- Handling: Beginner

TOP TIPS

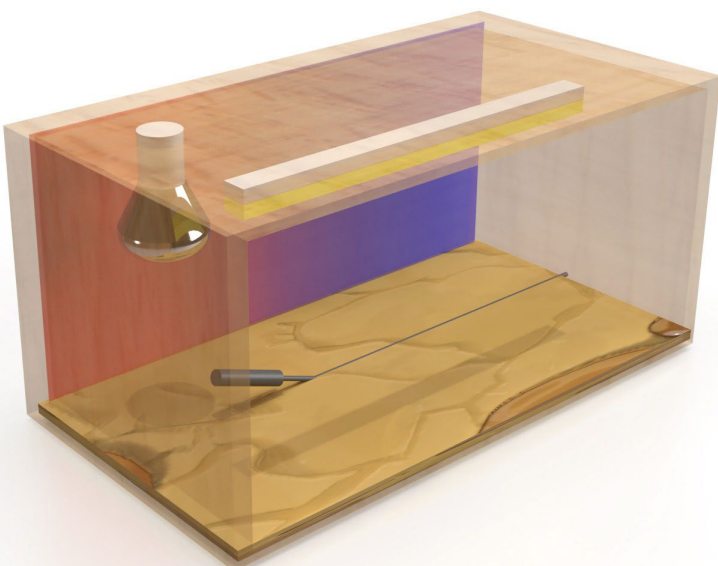
- ✓ After feeding, let your snake digest its meal for 2 days before any handling.
- ✓ Offer a smaller or larger food item if your snake refuses to feed.
- ✓ If your snake is refusing its food when it's about to shed, wait until the snake has fully shed before offering food.
- ✓ A bad shed is normally a sign of something wrong in the snake's environment.
- ✓ Using a suitably sized hide filled with damp moss with offer the snake a humid area if needed.
- ✓ Ensure vivarium vents are facing inwards. This should stop an inquisitive snake from escaping.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

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

ENVIRONMENT

Vivarium Setup



HOUSING

Hatchling/Juvenile - HabiStat Hatchling Snake Starter Kit (HSSK)
Adult - Wooden Vivarium 36x24x24 Inches, Wooden Vivarium - 48x24x24 Inches.

RUNNING COSTS

- Average Cost: 19p Per Day
- Average kW per day: 0.683

Calculations are based on using the recommended timings, heating, and lighting provided throughout the care sheet, and the Electricity unit rate of 28p per kWh.

Enclosure Readings

- Hot Spot: 30°C-32°C (86-90°F)
- Background Temp: 23°C-28°C (74°F-82°F)
- Night-Time Temp: 23°C-26°C (74°F-80°F)
- Humidity: 50%-60%
- UVI: 2-3

Heating

Royal Pythons are a crepuscular species and require a suitable light and heat gradient in the enclosure to simulate a complete 24-hour period.

The HabiStat Snake Accessory Kit (HSSAK) provides all the light, heat, and safety elements for the enclosure in one handy kit.

Use the Arcadia Pro Ceramic Lamp Holder & Bracket (RADCHP) with the Heat Bulb (HBB100) and the Heater Guard (HHG24) protecting the bulb, all running through the 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.

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

Lighting

Fit the Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit, 6% (RARTP24F) to the inside roof of the vivarium with the Arcadia Lamp Guard Pro (RALGP2) fitted around the UVB to protect it.

Ensure the UVB is fitted correctly and within the manufactures recommended distances, providing a UVI of 2-3.

DIET & WATER

Ensure the Snake has a varied diet, with a mixture of thawed Rodents and Poultry.

It is important to select an appropriately sized rodent for the size of your Royal Python. In general, we would suggest a feeder that is approximately the size (in width) of the largest part of the snake. If the food is too big then it could cause regurgitation and stress to the snake.

Hatchling - Every 5-7 days

Juvenile - Every 7-10 days

Adult - Every 14-21 days

Always provide a source of fresh water. The Sandstone Water Dish (HRSSCL) will provide a safe and sturdy option.

To maintain and regulate humidity within the enclosure, mist as required.

SUPPLEMENTATION

Royal Pythons do not require additional supplementation in the form of a calcium and multivitamin powder if the diet is kept varied.

Substrates and Decoration

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

- Jungle Bio (HSJB10), Arcadia EarthMix Arid (RAREA10)
- Cork Branch (HDB1), Grapevine (HSGV) and Tea Tree Branch (HSNTB) will offer shelter and enrichment within the enclosure.
- Live or artificial plant decoration will provide darker areas for the animal to use as shelter
- A Forest Hideout (HSNFHL) filled with Sphagnum Moss (HSMS250) will offer the Snake a humid area to use when needed.

ADDITIONAL INFO

- A Royal Python 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 Snake is about to shed their skin, is to look at their general colour and eyes.
- The Snake will appear duller than normal and may have a washed-out look. This will become more obvious as the Snake 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 Snake has shed its skin.
- Using Arcadia EarthPro Shed Support (RAREPSS30) can be beneficial. It contains essential minerals and amino acids that aid a Snakes shedding process. Follow the on-pack instructions.

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 remove any dirty bedding	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 or feeding your animal, their food, enclosure and any other equipment.

HANDLING & CARE

While this species is generally placid and will tolerate gentle handling, this can at times be very stressful for the animal, so any handling should only be done in short periods.

Things to look out for that will need veterinary assistance:

- Skin shedding problems (retained shed)
- Going off food
- Loose bowel movements

Should your animal display any signs of distress, changes in regular behaviour, or anything visually different, please seek help from your Reptile Veterinarian.

DATA MONITORING

Royal Python *Python regius* Complete this Sheet at the same time every day e.g. 12pm

	Hotspot Temp 30-32°C (86-90°F)	Background Temp 23°C-28°C (74°F-82°F)	Humidity 50-60%	UVI 2-3	Night Time Temp 23°C-26°C (74°F-80°F)	Feeding
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wednesday						
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						
Sunday						

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