

Western Hognose Care Sheet



Overview

- Scientific Name: *Heterodon nasicus*
- Origin: Western United States
- Ease of Care: Intermediate
- Potential Adult Size: 20 inches
- Life Span: 20 years
- Behavior: Diurnal
- Diet: Carnivore
- Handling: Advanced

TOP TIPS

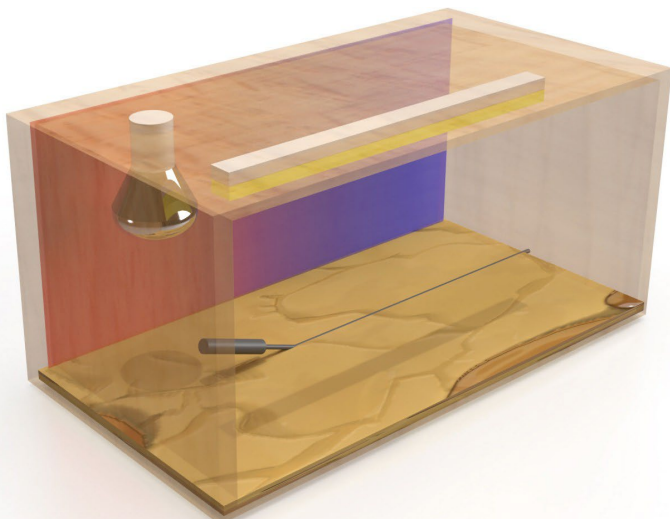
- ✓ Allow for a few inches of substrate to enable the Hognose to naturally burrow.
- ✓ For extra humidity, add damp moss to a hide.
- ✓ Ensure vivarium vents are facing inwards. This should stop an inquisitive snake from escaping.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

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

ENVIRONMENT

Vivarium Setup



HOUSING

Hatchling/Juvenile - HabiStat Hatchling Snake Starter Kit (HSSK)

Adult - Standard Vivarium 36x24x24 Inches (DVF3624)

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: 21°C-26°C (69°F-79°F)
- Night-Time Temp: 21°C-26°C (69°F-79°F)
- Humidity: 30%-50%
- UVI: 2-3

Heating

Western Hognose Snakes' are a diurnal 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 that it 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 Western Hognose. 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 (HRSSCM) will provide a safe and sturdy option.

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

Substrates and Decoration

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

- Jungle Bio (HSJB10), Snake Bedding (HSSB10), Coir (HSC10F), 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.

SUPPLEMENTATION

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

ADDITIONAL INFO

- A Western Hognose Snake 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.

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 behavior, or anything visually different, please seek help from your Reptile Veterinarian.

DATA MONITORING

Western Hognose *Heterodon nasicus*.

Complete this Sheet at the same time every day e.g. 12pm

| | Hotspot Temp 30°C-32°C (86°F-90°F) | Background Temp 21°C-26°C (69°F-79°F) | Humidity Day 30%-50% | UVI 2-3 | Night Time Temp 21°C-26°C (69°F-79°F) | Feeding |
|------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|--|----------------|
| Monday | | | | | | |
| Tuesday | | | | | | |
| Wednesday | | | | | | |
| Thursday | | | | | | |
| Friday | | | | | | |
| Saturday | | | | | | |
| Sunday | | | | | | |

GS Exotics & Reptilarium

Unit 3 (Llay Road Industrial Estate)
Aerial Road,
Llay,
Wrexham.
LL12 0TU

admin@gs-exotics.com

0151 245 5301