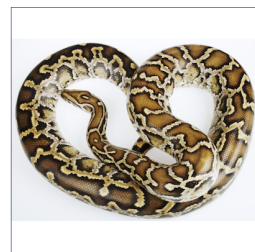


Burmese Python

Scientific Name: Python Bivittatus

Brief Description:



Burmese pythons are some of the most commonly kept snakes and come in many varieties. They are carnivorous animals and are most active at dusk while hunting for their prey on the ground or in the trees.

Average Size: Hatchlings range from eighteen-to-twenty-nine inches. Female adults average from thirteen-to-eighteen feet. Male average eighteen-to-fourteen feet.

Life Span: The Burmese Python can live, on average of twenty-five years.

Feeding:

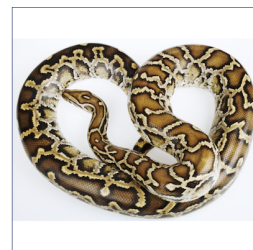
- Feed your python an appropriately sized rodent, weekly.
 - o Rodent should be no bigger than the snake at its largest point.
- Python's can eat rat pups, for younger snakes, moving up in size as it grows.
 - o Python's will require large rats or rabbits once fully grown.
- Do not handle your snake for one day after eating.
- Python's can be converted to feeding on frozen/thawed or pre-killed rodents.
- Never leave a live snake unattended with any snake.
- Python's go on hunger strikes during the winter.
 - o Keep an observant eye on the snakes overall condition and body weight.
 - o Reduce your handling during this time period.

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Feeding: (con't)

- o Offer python food every ten-to-fourteen days until eating again.

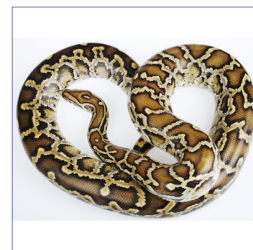


Housing:

- Housing can be as simple or elaborate as one wishes.
 - o More elaborate housing will require more time and work to maintain.
- Many enclosures work well for ball pythons:
 - o Plastic sweater boxes, Melamine Racks, Freedom Breeder cages
 - o Commercially available plastic-type reptile cages from Vision Herp or similar.
- Glass aquariums and tanks are adequate
 - o Such enclosures can make it difficult to maintain humidity levels.
- Juvenile pythons prefer smaller enclosures that make them feel secure.
 - o Small snakes in a large enclosure can make them feel overwhelmed and stressed.
- A full-grown python requires a cage of the following size:
 - o Ninety-six inches by thirty-six inches
- All enclosures must allow for a thermal gradient, with a hot spot on one end.

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Temperatures:

- Your snake will require a basking spot of eight-eight to ninety-two °F
- Your snake will require an ambient temperature of eighty-eight to eighty-four °F
 - o Ambient temperature should not fall below seventy-five °F
- You must know the temperature inside the enclosure at all times. Do NOT guess!
- Use a digital indoor/outdoor thermometer with a probe.
 - o Stick the thermometer to the inside of the cage on the cool end.
 - o Place the probe on the warm end.
- We can heat the enclosure by several means:
 - o Under cage heating pads.
 - o Ceramic heat emitters.
 - o Basking bulbs (both regular daytime and red night bulbs).
- Use thermostats, rheostats and/or timers to control your heat source.
- Do not use hot rocks as they heat unevenly and can cause serious burns.

Humidity:

- Too much or too little humidity can be problematic and detrimental to pythons health.
- Acceptable humidity level is fifty-to-sixty percent.
 - o Use cypress mulch or similar substrate that can be misted and mold-resistant.

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Humidity: (con't)

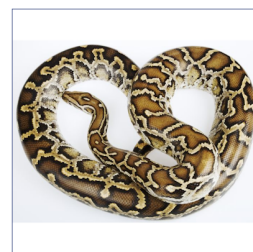
- o Cypress provides textual clues – rich brown when wet and tan when dry.
- Provide a humidity box. Pack with damp sphagnum moss and place inside enclosure.
- Observe your python for respiratory distress.
 - o Can be caused by combination of low ambient humidity, improper ambient temperatures, screen-top enclosure.
- Keep moisture in the cage by covering it with plastic or a towel.
- You want the enclosure to be humid, not WET.
 - o A soggy cage can eventually lead to bacterial or fungal infections.

Lighting and Water:

- A UVB bulb is recommended and should run on a twelve-twelve cycle.
 - o Twelve hours on and twelve hours off.
- Continuous bright, overhead lighting is stressful to snakes
- Always provide fresh, clean water for your python.
- A low, large dish is optimal as your python will soak in it from time-to-time.
- Snakes will defecate in the water, so be prepared for cleaning and disinfecting.
 - o Keep a spare water bowl on hand for such occasions.

Burmese Python

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Maintenance:

- Spot clean enclosure as necessary.
- Remove feces, urates and uneaten prey as soon as possible.
- Clean and disinfect water bowl on a weekly basis.
- Remove substrate and cage furniture for disinfecting every thirty days.
 - o Allow enclosure and all furniture to dry before returning pet to cage.

Accessories:

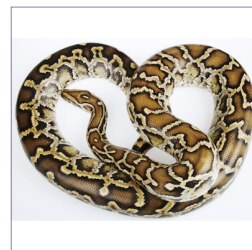
- An essential python accessory is a good hide box, even two of them.
 - o Adding multiple hide boxes allows them to choose between security and temperature.
- Commercially available hide boxes, work well.

Reproductive:

- Pythons reach sexual maturity anywhere from eighteen months to four years.
- Breeding season ranges from November to March.
 - o Stop all feeding at this time.
 - o Pythons should be in excellent health before breeding is attempted.
 - o Breeding may be induced by reducing daytime photoperiod from eight to ten hours.
 - o Drop nighttime temperatures into the mid seventies.
 - o Introduce the female into the males cage.
 - o Mist with water to help induce breeding activity.

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Scientific Name: Python Bivittatus



Reproductive: (con't)

- Females shed fourteen to twenty days after ovulation.
 - o Eggs are laid within thirty days.
 - o Clutch sizes are typically four-to-fifty eggs.
 - o Incubation temperature of eighty-eight-to-ninety °F is optimal.
 - o Eggs take average of sixty days to hatch.

Notes and Comments:

Pythons are often regarded as the most popular pet python in herpetoculture, and with their docile nature & low maintenance requirements it is easy to see why. Acquiring captive bred specimens will help ensure a successful snake keeping experience. The myriad color morphs that are now available, combined with the fact that normal ball pythons are quite attractive in their own right, truly make this species a snake for both novice and advanced herpetoculturist alike