

Milk Snake

Lampropeltis Triangulum

Brief Description

Milk Snakes are available in a wide-variety of wonderful colors and patterns, making them a very popular pet. This species of snake belongs to the Colubridae Family. They are also native to temperate and subtropical areas of North America, Asia and Europe. This species is very easy to care for, more so, than most snakes.



Average Size and Lifespan:

The average Milk Snake hatchling measures 20.9 cm (8.2 in) in total length and weighs 4.1 g (0.14 oz). Milk snakes typically live around 12 years, or up to 21 years in captivity. They reach maturity within three or four years.

Feeding:

Feeding your Milk Snake is a very simple, straight-forward process. However, it's important to adhere to a few guidelines and principles as mentioned below:

- Feed your snake appropriately sized prey. The food items should be no bigger than the snake's largest point.
- Milk Snakes are perfectly happy eating mice their entire lives.
- Avoid handling Milk Snake for at least a day after feeding or it may regurgitate.
- Milk Snake has a voracious appetite and are easy to convert to frozen/thawed food.

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Housing:

Milk Snakes are one of the few species that would prefer to be housed in a small enclosure, as a large habitat often leads to a stressed and overwhelmed snake. Fortunately, adult Milk Snakes do not require an elaborate setup. However, the more stuff you have as decorations, the more cleaning and disinfecting you will have to do. Learn more below:

- Housing can consist of a plastic sweater box, such as those by Rubbermaid.
- Melamine racks are quite good.
- Freedom Breeder cages are an excellent suggestion.
- Commercially available plastic-type cages, such as those from Vision Herp.
- Glass aquariums and tanks with screen tops are a great choice.
- Juvenile Milk Snakes seem to do well in a large or elaborate enclosure.
- Adult Milk Snakes should be housed in an enclosure thirty-six inches.

Maintenance:

Compared to some other pet's Milk Snakes are relatively easy to care for.

- Provide fresh clean drinking water, everyday.
- Ensure adequate temperatures.
- Once a month, provide a deep cleaning and sterilize the environment and any decorations.
- As for bedding, Aspen bedding provides a great product.
- Spot clean enclosure as necessary and clean water bowl weekly.
- Remove feces and uneaten prey as soon as possible. Clean/disinfect every 30 days.

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Temperatures:

Keeping your Milk Snake comfy is an absolute must. Below, we provide you with all the details you need to know to keep a happy Milk Snake.

- Basking spot of eighty-eight to ninety degrees Fahrenheit.
- An ambient temperature of seventy to seventy-five degrees Fahrenheit. Temperature should fall below seventy degrees Fahrenheit.
- You must know the temperature in which you are keeping your snake. Don't guess!
- Monitor temperature using a digital indoor/outdoor thermometer with a probe.
 - Stick thermometer to the inside of the cage on the cool end.
 - Place the probe on the warm end.
- Heat housing with under-cage heating pads, ceramic heat emitters or basking bulbs.
- Use thermostats rheostat and timers to control your heat source.
- Do not use rocks.

Humidity:

Fortunately, Milk Snakes are very low maintenance when it comes to humidity requirements. However if incomplete or stuck sheds are noticed, humidity can be raised slightly by providing a humidity box.

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Lighting:

Supplemental lighting is not a requirement for this species, but if used should run on a twelve-twelve cycle, meaning twelve hours on and twelve hours off. Continuous bright light is stressful to snakes.



Water and Accessories:

- Always make fresh water available for your Milk Snake.
- Milk Snakes do not soak regularly in their water bowls.
- For juvenile animals a one-inch deep bowl will suffice.
- Clean and disinfect water bowl as necessary.
- Keep a spare water bowl on hand while one is being cleaned.

Reproductive:

- Milk Snakes reach sexual maturity anywhere from eighteen months to three years of age.
- Breeding season ranges from November to May.
- Start with a brumation period and subject snakes to forty-five to fifty-five degree Fahrenheit temperatures for sixty to ninety days.
- Stop all feeding two weeks prior to brumation. Ensure snakes are in perfect health.