



BALL PYTHON (PYTHON REGIUS)



This is a general care sheet and we strongly encourage gathering more information regarding captive ball python husbandry. A great way to gather this information is to connect with other keepers online in social media groups and hobbyist forums, YouTube videos, and online care sheets. The more information you have, the happier the snake will be.

TEMPERATURE

Hot Side: 88-92F (thermometer on ground, not on wall)

Cool Side: 80-83F

Evening: 78-82F - during colder months you can cover the top of the screen cage with aluminum foil to trap more heat or consider a "closed" top cage.

There should be thermometers on both the hot and cool side of the cage at all times.

**If your cool side or evening time temperatures drop below these, your snake may start to refuse food.*

WATER AND HUMIDITY

Your ball python should have a water dish large enough for it to curl up in and submerge its entire body.

LIGHTING

For "Daytime Lighting"
12 hours on, 12 hours off

UVB optional. If used, use 5.0 or lower.

ENCLOSURE

Baby/Juvenile: Floor space of 24" x 12"

Adult: Floor space of 36" x 24" minimum

Ideally, especially for adult snakes, the enclosure will be solid top to keep in more heat and humidity.

HANDLING

Do not handle your snake for a minimum of 24-48 hours after feeding as this may cause your snake to regurgitate.

**If your snake regurgitates, wait a full 2 weeks before feeding again and make sure the food item is on the smaller side.*

SHELTER

You should have a hide on both the hot and cool side of the cage. Ideally, the hides will be tight-fitting. It's best practice to make those hides humid by occasionally misting the substrate inside of them. This will ensure your snake stays hydrated and has complete sheds.

**Always check the snake's tail tip and eyes as these are the most problematic shed areas.*

SUBSTRATE

The most popular substrate is "Forest Floor" which is a cypress mulch mix. Additionally, our Bioactive Supply Grassland mix is also preferred, due to its ability to retain humidity.

DIET & FEEDING

Your snake should be fed a rodent roughly the same girth as they are at their widest point. It is best practice to transition your snake to eating thawed frozen rodents. (Live rodents have the ability to harm or cause fatal injuries to your snake.)

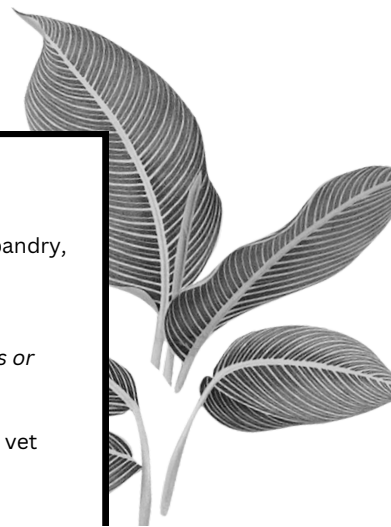
FEEDING SCHEDULE

Baby/Juvenile: Hopper/Adult Mouse/Rat Pup every 5-7 days

Juvenile-Sub Adult: Rats every 7-10 days

Adults: Rats every 10-14 days

If your enclosure temperature drops below our listed lows your snake may go off feed. Sexually mature males often go off feed for months when they are in breeding mode and that is **not a concern if the snake is not visibly losing weight/muscle tone.*



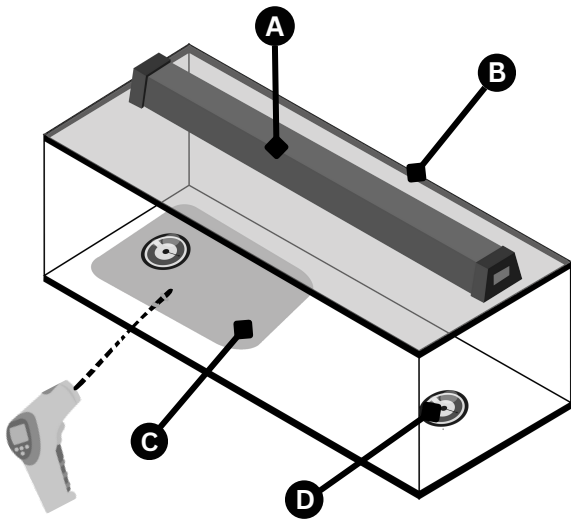
VETERINARY VISITS

We recommend taking your pet to a vet once a year but with appropriate and consistent husbandry, you shouldn't need to consult a veterinarian unless unforeseen health issues arise.

Health concerns: *Tumors, cysts, eye infections, rapid weight loss, runny stools/prolonged constipation, misshapen bones, trembles, bubbling/whistling from nose/mouth, missing digits or toes (caused by improper sheds)*

EastBayVivarium.com has several Bay Area Reptile vets listed along with a nationwide reptile vet search and Emergency Vet information.

HEAT MAT OPTION



A Lighting

UVB *optional*. 5.0 or lower.

12 hours light on, 12 hours light off

B Screen Top

The top should be lockable. Make enclosure escape-proof by using clips to secure the screen top or lock.

C Heat Mat

Attach to dimmer.

Hot side: 88-92 degrees F

D Temperature Gauge

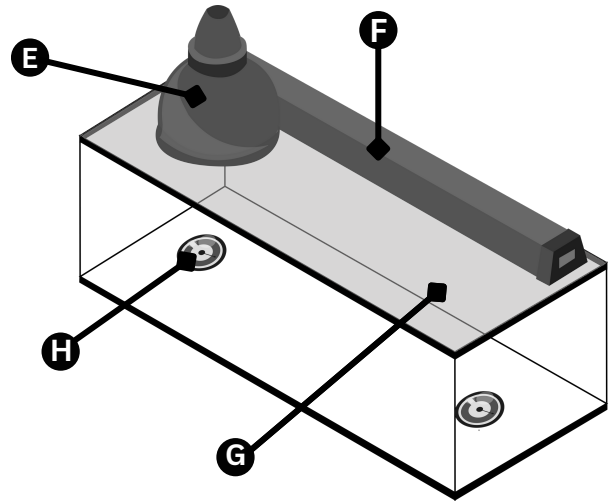
Have a gauge on each side of the enclosure to measure the gradient. Lay on top of substrate.

Recommended: use temperature gun



** Winter months may require additional lighting to prevent snakes going off feed.

HEAT LIGHT OPTION



E Heat

Attach to dimmer.

Hot side: 88-92 degrees F

F Lighting

UVB *optional*. 5.0 or lower.

12 hours light on, 12 hours light off

G Screen Top

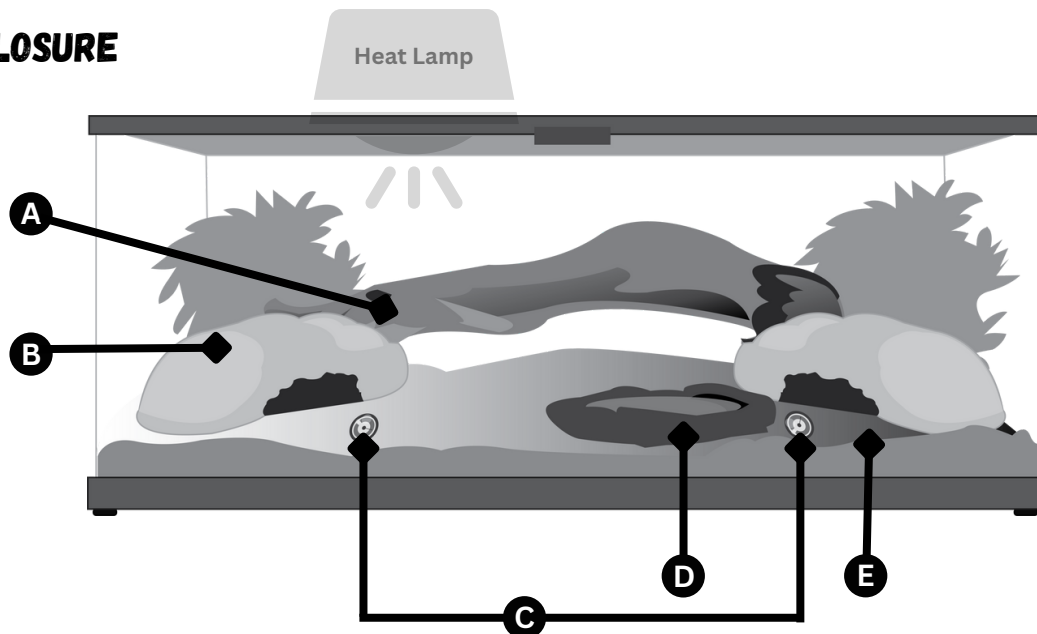
The top should be lockable. Make enclosure escape-proof by using clips to secure the screen top or lock.

H Temperature Gauge

Have a gauge on each side of the enclosure to measure the gradient. Lay on top of substrate.

Recommended: use temperature gun

INSIDE ENCLOSURE



A Enrichment

Create places to climb and aid in shedding!

B Warm & Cool Hides

One hide on each side of enclosure that is big enough for their entire body to fit. These hides should have higher humidity. To achieve this, you can fill them with moistened sphagnum moss.

C Temperature Gauges, warm & cool

D Water Bowl

Make sure it is big enough for their whole body to soak.

E Substrate

Choose a substrate that can retain humidity well.

- BioActive Supply Grassland Mix
- ZooMed Forest Floor (can mix with Eco Earth)