

Royal Python

(Python regitus)



Country of Origin	West and Central Africa
Average Size	3 – 5 Feet
Temperament	Docile, Shy
Food Source	Rodents
Experience Level	Beginner

The royal python is often called the ball python because of their way of curling up into a tight ball when they feel threatened. This species originates from West and central Africa. Females grow larger than the males, gaining an average size 4 to 5 feet. Males are slightly smaller.

This is a very timid and shy snake. They can be picky about their food and it can take a few months once you have bought your snake for it to feel secure enough to start eating on a regular basis.

A varied supply of defrosted rodents (mice, rats, gerbils) of all colours and sizes should be offered until a type is accepted. Should be fed at night. This species can go up to a year without food if in good shape to start with. Force feedings should be done only as a last resort. For best results allow a period of 3 - 5 weeks of undisturbed acclimation before attempting to feed a royal python. Many keepers claim that they find defrost chicks more readily taken than defrost rodents.

Babies can be housed in a small vivarium, but will soon require larger accommodations. Sub-adults and adults require a minimum 36 x 15 x 15" enclosure. We recommend bark chips as a substrate for this snake, although newspaper can be used. Landscape and create a good shelter, and climbing and basking areas with select anchored branches, driftwood, cork bark or hollow logs and rocks. For babies sturdy live potted or artificial plants can be used for decorative purposes. Providing a good hiding shelter is critical for the species. Provide a large, heavy, shallow pan of freshwater for drinking, soaking, and defecation at all times.

Day 82 F to 92 F; night 75 F - 80 F. Some humidity is provided by the large water pan. If you find the enclosure getting extremely dry, a squirt of water will raise the humidity levels. A normal bulb at around 60W is sufficient for daytime illumination. Under tank reptile heating pads placed under half the tank (the half with the light bulb above it) to create a temperature gradient. The snake can then choose whether to lie in the warm half or the cooler half of the tank.

The Royal Python is an ideal starter snake, but do not be alarmed if they are occasionally fussy eaters.

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