



# All About the **Ball Python**

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# The Ball Python

## About the Ball Python

The Ball Python is a good snake for a beginner snake pet owner. This complimentary eBook will not only inform you on this interesting reptile, but guide you through the steps of how to properly care for your new Ball Python pet. We hope you enjoy this informative source of Ball Python information to not only have a healthy Ball Python, but a happy Ball Python pet.

Average Length	3-5 feet	Characteristics	Nocturnal, shed skin several times each year.
Average Lifespan	20-30 years	Special Needs	Heat lamp, humidity control
Coloring	All colors	Health Concerns	Prone to parasites and ticks; respiratory infections, mouth rot, blister disease

## Ball Python Characteristics

The Ball Python is easy to handle. They don't grow as large as other constricting snakes in their species. These snakes are named Ball Pythons, because they roll up into a ball and tuck their heads into their coils when threatened. The Ball Python can grow to be between 3 to 5 feet at the rate of a foot per year for the first three years of their life. Ball Pythons have a life span of up to 50 years, but most commonly live for 20 to 30 years. The Ball Python has 62 known genetic morphs and can come in color phases such as, brown, tan, black, albino, striped and lemon pastel among many other colors.

## Selecting Your Ball Python

Before you acquire an exotic animal of any kind, it is important to research and read about its care. As the interest in owning reptiles has increased over the last several years, many books and pamphlets have been produced to help potential new owners discover what species is right for them.

Select a snake that is responsive when handled. Consider not only the overall look of the snake, but also its current living conditions; this will give you an indication of how well it is currently being cared for. Don't hesitate to ask the pet shop owner to throw some food in with any snake that you are considering; if it immediately goes after the food, that snake might be the one for you. Be sure to only select a snake from a pet shop or breeder where all animals appear to be healthy and well cared for. Some things to look for:

- full and plump bodies
- healthy skin with sleek scales
- bright and clear eyes



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## Selecting Your Ball Python's Habitat

When selecting your reptile's habitat, it is important to consider several things such as what type and size is appropriate, as well as substrate, temperature, light, furniture, and what type of feeding accommodations are necessary.

### Type and Size of Your Ball Python's Habitat

When bringing home your new Ball Python pet, you will want to prepare your home for your new addition. Proper caging of your Python is necessary. You will also want to equip the cage with a heat mat and heat lamp. With the lighting source for your Ball Python, remember that they are nocturnal, so during the night you will want to use a colored bulb, such as red, blue or black. Pythons need fresh water and hiding boxes in their cages as well. A humidity controller is a wise purchase to control the humidity within your Pythons housing. Also having something rough for your snake to rub up against during the shedding stage will help them displace that old skin.

These snakes do well with a temperature of gradient of 75 to 85 degrees. Make sure one side of the cage is on the warmer end of the spectrum, and the other side is on the cooler end. By doing this, the snake is able to regulate themselves properly. Make sure the tank has adequate ventilation to make sure excess humidity does not build up.

The Ball Python does not require many cage accessories, and a simple arrangement will be easiest to clean and maintain. Rocks and branches are not necessary, but you may add them to the cage to make it aesthetically pleasing to look at. Your Ball Python will use a large rock to hide behind and will also use it to rub against to help aid in the shedding of its skin.

### Habitat Care and Maintenance

Any debris and feces should be removed from the tank on a daily basis. Folded paper towel or newspaper can be placed in the toilet area and removed as soon as it is soiled.

Maintaining a happy and healthy habitat for your snake can be generally easy, as long as you keep up with it. Regularly change your substrate to assure and maintain good health.

### Feeding

All Ball Pythons will take small rodents (rats and mice), and some will eat other snakes. Hatchling Ball Pythons eat pinkie mice to start. As the snake grows larger, increase the number of pinkies fed, and then increase the size of the prey item. Adults can easily take several grown mice at one feeding. Feed hatchlings every three to five days, and adults once a week. If your snake does not immediately start to eat its dinner, leave the pre-killed rodent in the cage for about an hour or two. If the snake continues to ignore the rodent, then remove it from the cage and try again in a few days. Do not try to force the snake to eat.



You'll need these basics before your Ball Python comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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- [Thermometer](#)
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## The Ball Python Baby

At this stage of your Ball Python's life, starting them out properly will ensure that you keep a happy and healthy Ball Python for the span of their life. When you first bring your baby Python home, leave it alone for a few weeks so it can adjust to its surrounding and to overcome any stress it may feel. You should feed your baby Python mice every 5 to 7 days, and prey that has been pre-killed is suggested. They will shed about every four to six weeks during their growing years. It takes 7 to 10 days for your Python to shed its skin.

## The Ball Python Adult

As your Ball Python grows, their needs change. You will want to be sure your adult Ball Python has adjusted to its surroundings. Adult Pythons will feed off of rats every 10 to 14 days. As they get older, they will only shed a few times a year. Keep plenty of water around for your Python so they can re-hydrate themselves.

## The Senior Ball Python

As you go through the years with your Ball Python, you will want to ensure they are comfortable, warm, and eating a healthy diet. Annual visits to a veterinarian who specializes in reptiles are essential in ensuring that your Ball Python stays healthy for years to come.



Can't miss gifts for the Ball Python owner:

- [Book About Pythons](#)
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- [Basking Platform](#)

## Medical Considerations

Ball Pythons have some medical conditions you may want to consider. They are prone to parasites and ticks. They can also suffer from mouth rot, blister disease and respiratory infections. In cases where you find you have an ill Ball Python, increase the heat source and take it to the veterinarian as soon as possible.



### [Habitat Kit](#)

## Necessary Items

When you initially bring your new snake home, you only need the basics--an aquarium with paper towel or newspaper across the bottom, a basking area and a feeding area.

As you and your new snake become accustomed to one another, you will key in on their likes and dislikes and you can then begin adding new things to their habitat and daily routine.

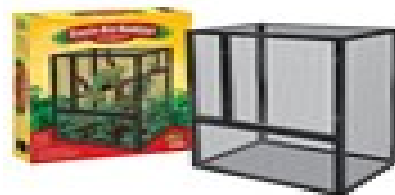


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