

# Red Blood Python

*Python brongersmai*

## CARE SHEET



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**Average Size** 4 - 6 Feet long

**Average Life Span** 20+ years

**Diet** Blood Pythons are strict carnivores. They can eat either frozen or live prey items. Babies will start with weaned mice. An adult will eat large rats to small rabbits. When feeding frozen prey, be sure the prey is thawed thoroughly. When feeding live prey, be sure to monitor the feeding to prevent the prey from attacking the snake.

**Feeding** Feed babies 1 - 2 times a week. At 2 - 3 months of age you can reduce to once weekly. Adults can eat weekly, although some keepers feed every other week. The prey size should equal the largest part of the snakes body in girth.

**Housing** Blood pythons may be kept alone or in groups. Breeders generally keep Blood Pythons in separate enclosures until breeding time. At that point, the breeder will house the snakes together.

**Size** - Blood Pythons are a ground dwelling snake, and their cage should reflect a ground dwelling environment. An adult must have a minimum cage size of 48" Long x 18" Deep x 12" High, although many keepers prefer a larger cage. Babies can start in 20 gallon long tanks.

**Substrate** - Due to humidity requirements and blunt nose Reptibark substrate is recommended. Since this is a burrowing species, a thicker substrate of 4-6 inches is acceptable. Peat moss or coconut fiber while better at holding moisture can lead to impactions in the mouth and nose as the snake tries to burrow. As a result, these substrates are generally avoided.

**Habitat** - Blood Pythons come from Borneo and Malayasia. In the wild they are found hiding under logs, rocks, and in holes. Keep the cage warm and humid.

**Temperature** - A basking spot of 90° F is recommended with the cool side at 75-80° F. A night time temperature drop into the 70's is fine however temperature drops of 65° F or lower can be harmful.

**Watering** - Provide fresh drinking water daily. This species will sometimes soak their body in water. Provide a bowl of water large enough so that the snake can fully submerge its body.

**Lighting** - Since this is a nocturnal species, it requires only one light bulb. This is the heat lamp which also emits UVA. There is no current proof that the animal requires UVB light, although some keepers prefer to provide UVB.