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King Snake

Lampropeltis spp.

Care Sheet

Average Size

3 - 6 feet long

Average Lifespan

15 - 20 years

Diet

King Snakes are strict carnivores. They can eat either frozen or live prey items. Babies will start with new born pinky mice. A full-grown adult will eat weaned to small rats. 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 be no larger than the largest part of the snake's body in girth.

Housing

Habitat - King Snakes range from Northern Mexico into Central and Northern United States. In the wild they are found in forested areas. Keep the cage warm and dry and provide plenty of places for hiding. King Snakes should be kept alone. King Snakes are known snake eaters. Housing them together could result in one snake being eaten by another. During breeding, King Snakes may be housed together. Pay attention to the mating to ensure the snakes do not attempt to eat one another.

Size - Depending on sub species, adults must have a minimum cage size of 30" Long x 12" Deep x 12" High, although many keepers prefer a larger cage. Babies can start in 10-gallon tanks.

Substrate - Shredded aspen is a perfect substrate. King Snakes love to burrow. Shredded aspen provides a fluffy substrate easy for burrowing and cleaning. Provide 3-6 inches of substrate.

Temperature - King Snakes require a basking spot of 85°- 90°F. The cool end of the tank can be as cool as 70°F.

Humidity - Humidity levels should be between 30% - 60%.

Watering - Provide fresh drinking water daily. King Snakes like to 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.

Plant and Fish bulbs are not UVB bulbs.



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