



komodo®

CARE GUIDE

ROYAL PYTHON



CONGRATULATIONS! Royal Pythons make great pets and we're sure you'll enjoy each other's company for many years to come. Choosing the correct enclosure and equipment is an important first step. Komodo reptile products are designed to ensure your new reptile pet gets off to a great start.

ABOUT ROYAL PYTHONS

The Royal Python (*Python regius*) is also sometimes known as the 'Ball' python due to its habit of curling up in to a ball when threatened. It is a stocky snake from West Africa, where it feeds on small mammals and birds. It is one of the smaller python species, growing up to two metres (six feet). Royal Pythons have a very gentle disposition and can live up to 30 years. Captive bred animals are usually very calm, gentle and curious, making them an ideal beginners' snake.

ENCLOSURES

Enclosures from W50xD30xH40cm are ideal for juvenile and young adult Royal Pythons.

SUBSTRATE

Your python will enjoy burrowing and hiding so add a deep layer of Komodo Aspen around 7cm (3in) thick. It's easy to spot clean when your python soils an area. Replace the substrate completely every few weeks, and be sure to clean and disinfect the enclosure before adding new bedding.

HEATING

Royal Pythons regulate their body temperature by moving between cooler and warmer areas. By installing the heat mat at one end of the enclosure on the side or back wall, your snake can choose the temperature and location that suits them best. A temperature range between 35°C (95°F) at the hot end to 21°C (70°F) at the cool end is ideal. **NEVER INSTALL HEAT MATS ON THE FLOOR OF THE ENCLOSURE AND THEN COVER, AND WITH SUBSTRATE.**

CONTROL AND MONITORING

Check temperatures using the thermometer on the dual gauge. Komodo Advanced Heat Mats must be used with a suitable thermostat such as the Komodo On/Off Thermostat. Best practice recommends placing a thermometer at both the hot end and the cool end to facilitate regular monitoring of the temperatures. ***Remember that Heat Mats emit infrared heat and thermometers must be in contact with the mat to register the temperature.***

HUMIDITY AND SHELTER

Royal Pythons need humidity. Provide a selection of hides at both the cool and warm end with damp moss inside to help create humid retreats.

WATER BOWL

Place the water bowl in the cool end of the enclosure. Only half fill the bowl with water as this makes spills less likely.

LIGHTING

Royal Pythons will not usually need additional lighting inside their cage, being comfortable with the natural light cycle in a typical home.

Spotlight bulbs are sometimes used as a heat source for Royal Pythons, so be sure to switch these off at night.

ENRICHMENT

Add plenty of plants and shelters. These can be natural or artificial, whichever you like best. Royal Pythons feel more secure when they are able to conceal themselves in tight fitting spaces.

FEEDING

Offer young Royal Pythons food every 4 - 7 days. Most Royal Pythons will eat defrosted rodents. Do not use a microwave to defrost rodents. Instead, use a glass of tepid (not hot) water. Feed rodents that are the same approximate size as the girth of your snake. Older snakes will usually feed weekly or fortnightly. Remember that your snake will probably not feed when it is about to shed its skin.

HANDLING

After setting up your new enclosure, leave your python to settle in before attempting to handle it. Once your snake has eaten a few meals in succession, then it is time to start handling. Never handle your snake straight after a feed as it could regurgitate its meal. Leave at least 48 hours after feeding before handling. As with all animal care, thoroughly wash hands after handling or cleaning your python's enclosure. Take great care when handling hatchlings as they can be bruised easily if squeezed.



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IN CONCLUSION, In conclusion Royal Pythons are now being bred in a great variety of colours or morphs. Captive bred animals are usually very calm, gentle and curious, making them an ideal beginners snake.

To the right are some timely reminders on Royal Python care in the handy format of a checklist



Royal Python Checklist

DAILY

- Clean and refresh water bowl
- Check correct temperatures are being maintained
- Check correct humidity is being maintained
- Spot clean any waste
- Remove any skin shed
- Visually inspect Snake
- Wash hands after servicing habitat or handling Snake

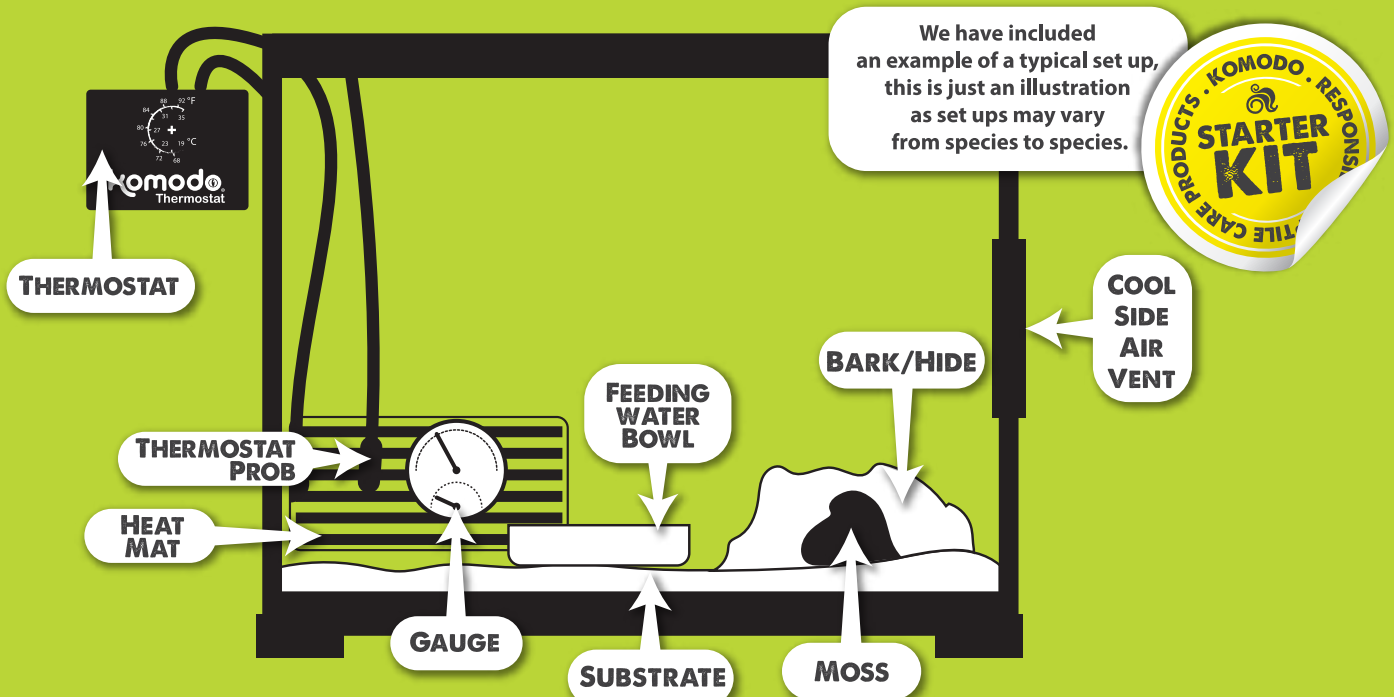
WEEKLY

- Offer Food
- Clean glass
- Top up substrate
- Clean any decorative wood, plants etc
- Physically inspect Snake
- Weigh Snake and record data

MONTHLY

- Remove and replace all substrate

NOTE: This basic wellbeing guide will help to get you started. It highlights the most important information that every keeper needs to know, but new keepers should research the husbandry needs of their animal in detail.



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