

Ball Python Care Guide:

Facts:

- Occur naturally in Sub-Saharan West/Central Africa,
 - Found in savannahs, grasslands, and lightly forested areas
 - Live in underground mammal burrows
- Females may reach 4-5 feet, with males usually maxing around 3-4 feet.
- Can live 30-40 years
- Named due to their defensive posture (coiled in a tight ball with their head protected in the center)

Enclosure Size:

- Baby/Juvenile: 30" x 12" x 12" (20 Gallon Long)
- Adults can live in a 48" x 18" x 21" (75 gallon) but a 48" x 24" x 24" (90 gal) is highly recommended.

**** BIGGER IS ALWAYS BETTER (as long as adequate clutter and hides are offered) ****

Decorations

- Thick branches, hollow logs, fake plants, live plants (will need a plant light), fake logs, cork bark, terracotta pots, hanging vines, rock hides, etc.
- Additives: You can also add miniature items into your tank to create a theme as long as they are animal-safe, non-chipped, un-sharp, etc.

Substrates:

- Safe Options:
 - Topsoil with no additives, repti bark/mulch, coco fiber, sphagnum moss (MUST MIX TOGETHER)
 - Create a mixture with equal parts soil and bark then add in coco fiber and sphagnum till loosely distributed throughout
- **Not** recommended (as sole substrate)
 - Woodchips, repti-bark/mulch, aspen snake bedding (humidity issues)

Humidity: ****MONITOR CLOSELY****

- Averaging between 55 -70 %
 - Ideally + 60 % when shedding
 - Avoid exceeding 75% as this can lead to respiratory issues

Misting:

- If required, misting can be done in the morning and repeated at night
****NEVER mist with lights on (30min-1hr before and after) ****
- Keeping substrate moist will help hold adequate humidity level
- Live plants are beneficial for humidity level

Heating: **Monitor all temps with a digital thermometer or temp gun, thermostats are ideal**

- Day:

- Halogen bulbs ideal
 - Basking spot - 90°- 95°
 - Ambient - 80° - 85°
 - Cool side - 75- 78F°

- Night:

- **Not** below 70 °F.
- If supplemental heat is required use a CHE (ceramic heat emitter) **NO COLORED BULBS**

UVB: (highly recommended) (BRAND MATTERS)

- Arcadia Forest 6% reflective T5HO (linear bulb)
- Zoo Med T5HO Reptisun 5.0

*Should cover ½ the enclosure, starting at the hot end**

Feeding: (tentative guide, monitor your animals body condition and adjust as needed)

- How Often

- Juveniles (3 - 6mths): every 5 - 7 days
- Sub adult (6 - 12mths): every 8 - 10 days
- Adults (12+ months): every 12 - 15 days
- Adults (3+ yrs): every 22 - 25 days

- What to Feed:

- Rats
- African soft furred rats
- Mice (occasionally, not main food source)
- Chicks
- Gerbils
- Quail

** Prey size should be about the space between the eyes **

Water:

- Bottled water, treated tap water, gallon drinking water, or gallon spring water
- Water should be changed every other day

Tank Cleaning:

- Spot cleaning should be done after every bowel movement
- Once a month the tank should be completely cleaned out. That includes washing out the tank, fresh substrate, and fake décor should also be washed. **Unless bioactive**

