



Congratulations on the purchase of your new ball python! Owning a pet is a huge privilege and responsibility, so this document is to ensure you have all the necessary equipment before bringing your new snake home. It is recommended that you have your new friend's environment set up 1 week prior to rehoming.

This ball python information will give you the basic knowledge you need to raise a healthy and happy snake.

The average life span of a ball python can be upwards of 30-50 years when they are cared for properly. These snakes are very docile and gentle which makes them such amazing pets.

The things we need to keep happy pythons and why

- Enclosure designed for a ball python such as a 30+ gallon glass tank with screen top OR a tote set up. Bigger is not always better, ball python will feel more secure in smaller enclosures. If it is too big, they will be stressed creating health and feeding issues. Size according to the snake per their current size, not what they will grow up to be. As you snake matures you will need to increase the size of your enclosure. They should be able to stretch.
- Ball pythons are great at escaping so please ensure your lid can be secured. Finding an escapee can be stressful to them and you so best to ensure they can't make that great escape.
- Hide box large enough for the entire snake to fit, two if you are housing in a glass enclosure. One on the cold side and one on the hot side.
- Substrates can be newspaper, coconut husk, aspen bedding, or other safe material.
NEVER USE CEDAR AS THIS IS TOXIC
- Hydrometer to measure humidity. 60 is ideal unless your friend is in shed. 80+ when in shed. Too much humidity invites poor health and possible respiratory infection so monitor this daily.
- Thermometer to measure those temps for hot and cool side.
- Heat Source connected to a thermostat. NO EXCEPTIONS
They do best and need a cool side between 77-80 degrees and a hot side of 87-90 degrees. They are a cold-blooded animal, so they need heat from their enclosure to regulate body temps and metabolism.
- Frozen or Live Rodents. If feeding live ensure you have a local supplier with prey readily available. Frozen can be ordered online, we recommend Rodent Pro, and stored in your freeze. Thaw using safe methods prior to feeding. Frozen is a safer form as there is no bites or scratching during feeding sessions. If feeding live NEVER leave prey items in the enclosure without monitoring them.
Choose prey items based on your snake size. Feed comparable to the thickest part of your snake. Baby pythons should be feed weekly whereas sub adults to adults can be fed every one to two weeks. Avoid handling 48-72 hours after feeding to avoid regurgitation.
- Tongs for feeding
- Water Bowl. An 8-ounce bowl is appropriate for hatchling and adult will need something closer to 16 ounces. They can make a habit of soaking so size accordingly. Ball pythons require a constant water source and water should always be changed regularly.
- Clutter should you choose a glass enclosure. Plants, climbing branches and lots to hide in. When choosing these items makes sure they are items that can be cleaned and disinfected and avoid anything with a sharp edge. Black out three sides of your glass enclosure to help your new friend feel more secure. Do not house more than one snake in an enclosure except for breeding times. Snakes need their own spaces.

Other things to be aware of

- Should your ball python need some help connect with a local veterinarian that specializes in ball pythons. You do not want to try and find one should the time come you need one. Pythons are a master of disguise when it comes to being sick so be alert and ready should the time come that your snake needs help. They do not require a regular visit but when the time comes you will be happy you know who to call in advance.
- Shedding happens as they grow. Shedding can take up to 2 weeks from start to finish. Increase that humidity level to ensure a nice clean shed. When they are starting a shed cycle, you will notice they appear dull, and their eyes will become milky. Avoid handling during this time as they can be sensitive and may become agitated. Make sure they have plenty of water as they drink a lot during this time. Humidity boxes can help. Your snake should shed in one full piece, if not check the enclosure, temperatures, and humidity. Something may be off.
- Ball pythons are nocturnal and most active at night. Their days consist of resting in their hides.
- Missed feedings happen and hunger strikes are real. Do not become worried should they miss a meal or a few. Check their environment to ensure all requirements are being met. Do not handle prior to feeding timeframes. Snakes may go off food during the breeding season. Make sure they continue to drink water and are acting normally. It is very normal for them to go 90+ days without a meal as long as they constantly have water. Offer weekly until they return to eating but don't stress if they miss a meal or two and keep in mind adults can hunger strike for up to 6 months. Babies upwards of a month is not concerning. Again, always offer food on a regular basis.
- Feed your snake in their enclosure but avoid substrate from being a part of their meal. Do not feed them items larger than the thickest part of their body.
- Poop, it happens but not frequently like other animals. Don't stress if they don't "go" often, they go when they need to. Should their backside look bloated for an extended period soak them for 20 minutes in warm water.
- Not everyone you know is going to love your new friend. Please do not take them through the drive thru of your local coffee shop or force your friends with fear to "just hold them". This is a harmful to your snake and the people with that fear. Respect the fear and who knows, maybe someday they can conquer that fear, but it is not a snake lovers' role to take. Best to educate than force an uncomfortable situation.

Our commitments

#1 Granite State Morphs stands by our animals. Should there come a time that you are unable to care for your Granite State Morphs snake please reach out to us directly. We have made a promise that should one of our pets needs a re home we will take it back. Terms to be negotiated should the time arise.

#2 Upon shipment you will receive all care information of your new friend including parent information, recorded feedings and weight information. All pythons be shipped healthy and ready for their new home. Hatchlings will ship only after they have had 3 consistent feedings. All shipments are weather permitting.

#3 Shipments will be Thursday deliveries only. They will be shipped FedEx priority overnight and will provide you tracking information. Snakes will be shipped in an insulated box with heat or cool packs depending on the season they are shipping. Within the box your snake will be in a snake bag to keep them secure and safe during transport. We do guarantee a live arrival. If your snake arrives DOA upon arrival, we need to be contacted immediately. Pictures of the box, snake and a video confirm its passing is required. We do expect that you have their home set up and ready 1 week prior to the delivery. Signature is required.