

## Ball Python

**Native to:** Central / Western Africa

**Size:** 3-5 feet

**Lifespan:** 15-20 years,

**Enclosure:** Adult needs 30 gallon breeder tank

**Temperature:** Thermal Gradient, Daytime 75-80, Basking area of 95 degrees and a nighttime temp gradient of 75-80

**Diet:** Rodents, shoulder of prey should not be larger than snakes jaw

**Feeding:** Keep in mind that Balls can be extremely finicky eaters. I prefer to feed all my snakes frozen / thawed. This is much safer for the snake and it is much easier for me to keep a freezer full of rodents. Young snakes eat 1-2 times a week, Adults every 10-14 days.

**Furniture:** Hide box, water bowl, and branches for climbing. Keep in mind that if you take sticks and rocks from the wild, they must be boiled for 5 minutes or baked in the oven at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Make sure you know if any of the materials are toxic to your pet (i.e. cedar), and it is not illegal to collect it from the wild!

**Maintenance:** Provide fresh water daily and spot clean the enclosure. Ball Pythons are notorious for shedding problems, mist tank every once in a while and especially while snake is in shed. If the problem persists consult a vet as it may be due to more serious problems.

\* Overall a great snake for beginners, they stay a manageable size, have a great temperament, and are inexpensive. My wife refers to them as the gateway snake due to the fact that after acquiring one ball python our home was quickly converted into reptile house !\*