

# PASSION *for* PETS

## Python Snake Information Care Sheet



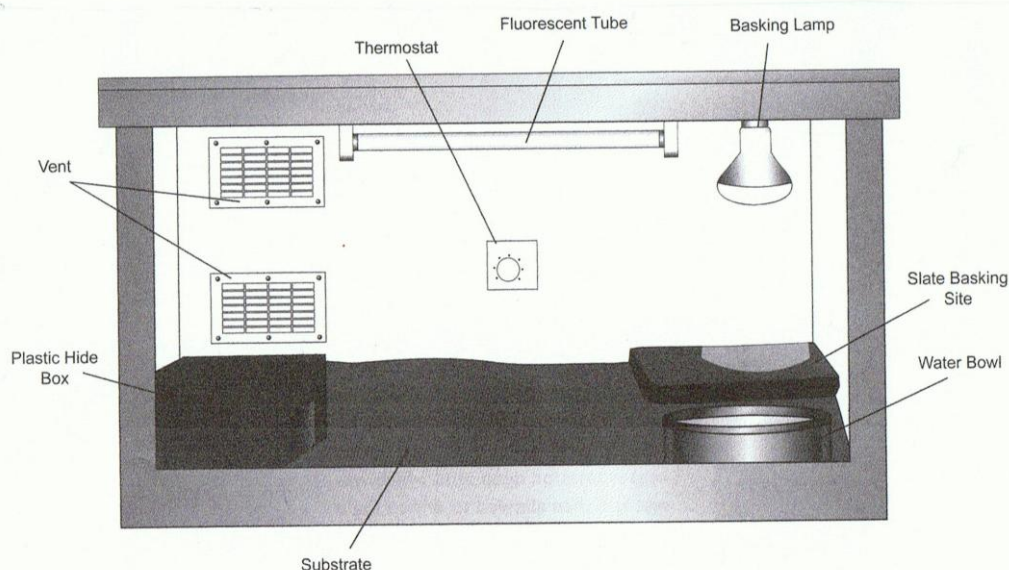
### Check list

- A tank and critter lid or a melamine reptile enclosure with thermostat and bulb sockets
- An infra-red spot lamp
- A heat mat – glass tanks only
- A thermometer
- An UVB reptile tube
- A reflector
- Ceramic water dish
- Feeding tongs
- Repti-mist
- Repti-Klean
- Repti-Guard
- Repti-Hand
- 2 hide boxes
- Jungle vines/plants
- Breeders Choice litter or Desert sand

### SETTING UP YOUR TANK OR ENCLOSURE

#### STEPS TO SETTING UP YOUR TANK/ENCLOSURE

Choose an appropriate location for your carpet python's home. If you have chosen a glass tank, place your heat mat in one corner of your tank. Cover the bottom of your tank/enclosure with the breeders choice litter or desert sand, allowing 1-2 inches for depth coverage. Position the hide boxes in the tank/enclosure, making sure you have one at the warm end of the enclosure and also one at the cool end. Hide boxes should ideally be only just large enough for the snake to fit inside. The more snug the fit, the safe and secure the snake will feel. Rinse your reptile dish and fill with water. Now place this inside your tank/enclosure. Be careful not to place the bowl too close to the heat source. Decorate the tank/enclosure with natural-looking furnishings such as jungle branches, vines, logs and climbing branches as these allow the snake to exercise. Position your UVB light so that it sits across the top of your tank. In a glass tank position your infrared spotlight in the same corner as the heat mat, otherwise connect the infra-red spotlight in the socket provided. Place your thermometer on the side of your tank under the infrared spotlight. Now add your Coastal carpet python.



## **PURCHASING YOUR CARPET PYTHON**

Your Passion for Pets staff member will help you with your selection of a carpet python. An adult Coastal carpet python can be housed properly if kept in a tank with adequate vertical climbing space. As a general rule, the length of the enclosure/tank should be around half to three quarters that of the snake to be housed.

## **SEXING YOUR COASTAL CARPET PYTHON**

Telling the sex of a Coastal carpet python can be difficult even when they are adults. As with most other python species, females get bigger than males attaining lengths of 8 or 9 feet.

## **TEMPERATURE**

As Coastal carpet pythons are cold-blooded animals we need to re-create "their" environment. Ideally, the warm end of the tank/enclosure should be kept at 29-32°C and the cool end around 24-26°C. The snake will probably spend most of its time at the higher end of the gradient, but the opportunity for the snake to cool down is important.

## **FEEDING YOUR COASTAL CARPET PYTHON**

Snakes are strictly carnivores, juveniles eat thawed rats or mice (to room temperature is very important) and for a variety of reasons, these are generally the best staple diets for them. Larger carpet pythons can be fed rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, chickens, pigeons and other appropriately sized whole animals. Some individuals will have a definite preference for certain prey, however thawed rats are generally the easiest and best to use and if these are accepted, there is no need to vary the diet for the snake's sake as whole rats contain everything a snake needs in the right portions.

Once they start, carpet pythons are generally very keen feeders and can grow at startling rapid rates, in some cases 3cm per week or more. Meals should be around 10-15% of the snake's weight. They are capable of consuming enormous prey, even items larger than themselves, but this is potentially dangerous and not recommended. Meals should generally be offered every five to ten days for younger snakes and around every two to three weeks for adults. If the snake appears to be under or over weight, adjust the feeding accordingly.

## **TANK MAINTENANCE**

To keep your Coastal carpet python healthy, you will need to use a litter scoop to remove droppings daily. Once a week you will need to thoroughly clean your tank/enclosure and replace the breeders choice litter. Once every three weeks you will also need to spray your tank/enclosure with mite/lice spray. Always remove your Coastal carpet python before cleaning the tank/enclosure and always use a disinfectant such as Repti-Klean.

## **BOWLS**

Your Coastal carpet python's water bowl need to be washed daily and shouldn't mix with human bowls as snakes can carry salmonella. This will only be caught through poor hygiene. Always wash your hands after handling your snake.

## **LIFESPAN**

Coastal carpet pythons can live up to between 20 – 30 years in captivity. They can grow up to 8 to 9 feet in length.

## **BREEDING**

Sexual maturity in Coastal carpet pythons is reached between 2-1/2 to 3yrs of age and will lay large clutches of 20 to 30 eggs depending upon the size of the female. The average incubation time is 50 to 55 days.

## **SKIN-SHEDDING**

Coastal carpet pythons shed their skin as they grow. The more your snake grows the more it will shed its skin, this can occur between 8-10 times a year. Skin –shedding problems may arise if the humidity is too low, if this is occurring, try raising the humidity by using a larger water bowl, placing the water bowl at the warm end during slough cycles or spray the snake with Repti-mist.

## **CONTACT US**

Our friendly staff is always available to answer your questions so please don't hesitate to contact us for further information.