



Royal Python (Ball Python) Husbandry Manual

This Care Guide may be updated at any time without notice.

Species: *Python regius* (Common Name: Royal Python / Ball Python)

Prepared as a Complete Care & Breeder Reference Guide

1. Species Overview

*The Royal Python (*Python regius*), commonly known as the Ball Python in North America, is a small to medium-sized constrictor native to West and Central Africa. They inhabit grasslands, savannas, and forest edges, often utilizing rodent burrows for shelter.*

Average Adult Size:

- Males: 3–4 feet
- Females: 4–5+ feet

Average Lifespan:

- 25–40 years in captivity with proper care

Temperament:

- Generally docile
- Defensive when stressed
- Prone to balling behavior when threatened

2. Enclosure Requirements

Minimum Adult Enclosure Size:

- 4 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft (120cm x 60cm x 60cm)

Enclosures:

Best Enclosure Types: PVC enclosure (recommended)

- 36x18x18 for your baby python
- 48x18x18 or bigger for adults

Ventilation:

- Cross ventilation preferred
- Avoid excessive airflow causing humidity loss

Security:

- Lockable doors
- Tight-fitting hides

3. Temperature & Heating

Temperature Gradient:

- Warm side (hot spot): 88–92°F (31–33°C)
- Cool side: 78–82°F (24–27°C)
- Night drop: 72–75°F acceptable

Heating Equipment:

- Radiant heat panel (preferred)
- Ceramic heat emitter
- Under-tank heater (with thermostat only)

Thermostats:

- Mandatory for all heating elements
- Probe placed at hot spot surface

Monitoring:

- Digital thermometers (warm & cool side)
- Infrared temperature gun recommended

4. Humidity & Hydration

Ideal Humidity:

- 60–70% baseline
- 75–85% during shedding

Methods to Maintain Humidity:

- Moisture-retentive substrate
- Large water bowl
- Partial covering of ventilation if needed
- Humid hide during shed

Signs of Improper Humidity:

Low Humidity:

- Stuck shed
- Wrinkled skin
- Dehydration

Excess Humidity:

- Scale rot
- Respiratory infections

5. Substrate Options

Recommended Substrates:

- Coconut husk
- Cypress mulch
- Reptichip
- Organic topsoil blend

Quarantine:

- Paper towel

Avoid:

- Pine
- Cedar
- Aromatic woods

6. Interior Setup & Enrichment

Minimum Requirements:

- Two snug hides (warm & cool side)
- Water bowl large enough for soaking
- Climbing branches
- Artificial plants for security

Enrichment:

- Occasional rearrangement
- Exploration time in secure area

7. Feeding & Nutrition

Prey Size:

- The prey item should be approximately equal to the widest part of the snake's body and never exceed the girth of your python.

Feeding Schedule:

- Hatchlings: Every 5–7 days
- Juveniles: Every 7–10 days
- Adults: Every 10–21 days

Feeding Method:

- Frozen/thawed preferred (RATS)
- Warm prey to body temperature before offering
- Avoid handling for 48-60 hours post-feeding

Common Feeding Issues:

- Seasonal fasting
- Stress-related refusal
- Improper temperatures

If your python refuses to eat, slightly increase the enclosure temperature to a proper warm-side range (around 88°F) before attempting to feed & pour a small amount of the thawed rodent's water into the enclosure to introduce the scent. The smell can help signal that food is present and may stimulate a feeding response.

8. Shedding (Ecdysis)

Healthy Shed:

- One complete piece
- Clear eye caps

If Incomplete:

- Increase humidity
- Provide humid hide
- Do not manually peel

Shed Cycle:

- Every 4–8 weeks depending on age & feeding

9. Health Monitoring

Healthy Indicators:

- Clear eyes
- Firm muscle tone
- Strong feeding response
- Silent breathing

Warning Signs:

- Wheezing or clicking
- Excess saliva
- Open-mouth breathing
- Mites (black moving specks)

Veterinary Care:

- Annual reptile vet visit recommended
- Immediate consultation if respiratory signs appear

10. Cleaning & Sanitation

Daily:

- Spot clean waste
- Check temperatures & humidity

Weekly:

- Clean water bowl

Monthly:

- Replace substrate
- Disinfect enclosure with reptile-safe disinfectant

Quarantine Procedures:

- Minimum 60–90 days for new arrivals

11. Breeding & Reproductive Care (Advanced)

Breeding Weight:

- Males: 600g+
- Females: 1500g+ recommended

Cooling Cycle:

- Gradual night drop for 8–12 weeks (advanced keepers)

Egg Incubation:

- 88–90°F
- 55–60 days incubation

Clutch Size:

- 4–10 eggs average

Post-Lay Care:

- Female recovery feeding schedule

12. Record Keeping

Maintain records of:

- Feeding dates & prey size
- Shedding dates
- Weight tracking
- Breeding records
- Health observations

Proper documentation improves long-term success.

Friendly Reminder: *Maximize your earnings with our specialized dashboards and invitation-only affiliate program. To ensure industry integrity and prevent spam, we manually vet all applicants. Contact us to apply if you are a serious professional ready to grow with us.*

Contact Page QR Code

