

# Childrens Python Care Sheet

*Because we care !!!*



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**Your Pets Super Store**



**Congratulations on your new pet. The Childrens Python can make an excellent pet for the beginner and expert alike, due to its manageable size and usually calm personality. Contrary to the name, these aren't necessarily pythons for children but rather named after one-time zoological curator of the British Museum called John George Children. The Childrens Python can grow two**

**to three feet in length at maturity and live 15 to 25 years in captivity, with the proper care.**

## **HOUSING**

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These pythons need a 20 gallon long type tank for a single snake or 30 gallon long for a pair. Aspen, bark or R-Zilla terrarium liner can be used for a substrate. Furnish the cage with branches for climbing. The enclosure should have at least two hides to allow the snake to choose more than one location. One should be on the hot side and the other on the cool side. You can put moist moss or bark in one of the hides to help with shedding. They will need a water bowl with clean water available to them at all times. Pythons love fresh water! Having a water bowl also lends humidity to their environment which helps them to shed. Childrens Pythons need a humidity level of 60 percent.

## **HEAT AND LIGHTING**

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In the day time, the hot end of the enclosure should be set at 88–90 degrees fahrenheit, and the cool end at about 80 degrees. At night, temperatures can be in the mid 70's. Use a thermometer to check the temperatures. An under tank heater and/or a ceramic heater can be used to maintain proper temperatures. Do not use heat rock inside the enclosure. Childrens pythons are nocturnal and do not require UVB lighting. Place the cage in a room that gets natural light to give your snake the appropriate day/night cycle.

## **DIET**

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Adult childrens pythons can be fed on an appropriately sized mouse once every 7-10 days. The food offered should be roughly 1 to 1.5 times the thickness of the snake at the centre of

## **DIET - continued**

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its length. Don't handle your python for at least 24 hours after feeding to avoid stress and possible regurgitation. Juvenile childrens pythons will need up to twice as much food as adults in relation to their size, to accommodate growth. Juveniles will eat pinkies and can progress to fuzzies then adult mice as they grow. Frozen rodents come in many different sizes and can be thawed out at feeding time. When using frozen feeders, DO NOT microwave or boil. The safest way to thaw them is to place them into a bowl of warm water until they are thawed and warm all the way through. Microwaves will leave hot spots inside and can burn your snake. Like most snakes, childrens pythons may occasionally fast for a few weeks when they have had enough food. As long as they are healthy and not losing a lot of weight, this is normal and nothing to be concerned about.

## **CLEANING**

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Your childrens python enclosure should be spot checked for feces on a daily basis and cleaned out completely with Healthy Habitat disinfectant monthly. Clean the water dish daily and fill with fresh dechlorinated water. All cage furniture should also be disinfected and the substrate should be changed. If using cage carpet it can be washed and dried. It is most convenient to keep two carpets.

## **HEALTH**

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Always wash your hands before and after handling a reptile. A good maintenance and cleanliness regime is essential to ensure long term health for your python.

## **FERTILITY**

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Consult one of our pet specialists.

## **CHECK LIST**

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 20 gallon long aquarium with a  
tight fitting screen top for one python
- \_\_\_\_\_ large water bowl
- \_\_\_\_\_ cage carpet, aspen or bark  
substrate
- \_\_\_\_\_ branches for climbing
- \_\_\_\_\_ two hide houses
- \_\_\_\_\_ under tank heater
- \_\_\_\_\_ reptile safe cage cleaner