

Snakes



Know what your snake needs.



FOOD AND WATER

- Find out what your snake eats, how food should be presented and how often, to keep him/her healthy. This may include live insects.
- Make sure fresh, clean water is provided – in a way best for the animal to drink and to bathe, submerge or swim.



A GOOD HOME

- Find out how much space your snake needs and any special lighting and heat source requirements. In order to be able to warm up or cool down, snakes need access to a range of temperatures and humidity levels.
- Find out about how to provide rough surfaces, and to maintain ventilation and humidity suitable for your snake to shed skin and reduce the risk of becoming ill.



COMPANY

- Find out whether your snake would prefer to spend most of his/her time alone, unless when breeding, or in small groups.



TO BEHAVE NORMALLY

- Find out if your snake would naturally hide, bathe or stay up in branches – so the home you provide will allow such activities.
- Check what changes in light levels are needed for your snake to behave naturally.



TO BE HEALTHY

- Get to know your snake to help spot the signs if something is wrong and take him/her to the vet if unwell or injured.

This is very basic information. Find out more about what your snake needs. Talk to us on the RSPCA advice line: 0300 1234 555 or visit: www.rspca.org.uk/petcare

www.rspca.org.uk



SNAKE CARE

Your snake deserves the best care possible so make sure you are also prepared to:



- learn more about what you're taking on – snakes can vary greatly in size, from less than one metre for some king snakes, to up to 10 metres for a reticulated python
- take care choosing a floor covering that allows natural behaviour, like burrowing – so, if your snake eats it, no harm is caused
- only keep venomous snakes if you have a secure enclosure, experience and a Dangerous Wild Animals Act licence from your local authority.



Most snakes are only active at night or during low light levels, so make sure the location of your snake's home, the types of lamps and the time of day he/she is handled does not cause disturbance or harm.

Did you know...

the law that protects pets has changed? You have a legal responsibility to care for your snake.

Find out more at: www.rspca.org.uk/petcare or talk to us on the **RSPCA advice line: 0300 1234 555**

0300 numbers are charged at your carrier's national rate, inclusive of call packages.

The display of RSPCA publications at the premises of other organisations does not imply any endorsement of those premises or organisations by the RSPCA.



RSPCA, Wilberforce Way, Southwater
Horsham, West Sussex RH13 9RS
Tel: 0300 1234 555

A charity registered in England and Wales no. 219099