



# Reptile Systems

*We create your best solutions*

**ZONE 2**  
UVI 1.1 - 3.0



**Ball / Royal Python**  
*Python regius*

## Distribution

West & Central Africa



### Adult Size

106 - 182cm  
(3 ½ - 6 foot)



### Life Span

25 years



### Experience

Beginner



### Handling

Can be handled



### Natural habitat

The natural range of a Ball Python ranges from grassland, shrubland, savanna's and sparsely wooded areas.

## Housing

Royal Pythons do best within a wooden vivarium because wood is an excellent insulator of heat and so a wooden vivarium will make it easier to control the crucial temperatures required inside the habitat. The minimum enclosure size for an adult would be 1097x731 x731 cm (36x24x24 inches) this allows sufficient length to allow for the creation of a temperature gradient.



## Heating

Ball Pythons will need a temperature range of 24-35°C (75-95°F)

**Basking spot maximum**

34°C (93°F)

**Ambient daytime range**

26.5 -29.5°C (80-85°F)

**Ambient night-time range**

24-26.5°C (75-80°F)



The basking and ambient temperatures are easily achieved using Reptile Systems Basking Spot Lamps in combination with a Reptile Systems Medium or Large Black Clamp lamp.

If additional night-time heat is needed this can be achieved using a Reptile Systems Ceramic Heat Emitter Lamps in combination with a Reptile Systems Medium or Large Black Clamp lamp.

Always ensure that heating products are run through a suitable dimming thermostat and ensure they correctly caged off so that your animal can not burn itself.

## Lighting

Ball Pythons under zone 2 in the Ferguson scale this ranges from 1.1 - 3 UVI the ideal photo period would be 12 hours with all the lights on and 12 hours with all the lights off.

The recommended UVI are easily achieved using and Reptile Systems Zone 3 T5 / T8 Lamp.



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### Substrate

A wide range of substrates can be used but for a naturalistic enclosure a mix of sand and soil with the addition of orchid bark / cypress mulch and leaf litter to add interest and textures for your animal.

### Water / humidity

Ball Pythons should be provided with fresh water daily, in a reasonable sized bowl with is heavy enough that your pet can not tip.

Ball Pythons require an ambient humidity of 55-60%.



### Diet / Nutrition

Ball Pythons are carnivores in the wild they will eat a range of prey including lizards, birds, and rodents. In captivity Ball Pythons should be offered an appropriately sized prey item it is usual for people to offer mice or rats but if you can offer a variety of prey including quail, chicks, mice, rats, multimammate and gerbils your animal will benefit from a more varied diet.

### Handling

Royal Pythons can be easily handled. It is worth keeping in mind with all snakes they should not be handled 2-3 days after feeding. With any new reptile it is suggested that a 2 week settling in period is given in which handling does not take place. Handling should be limited to 20-30 minutes at a time, so your animal does not get too cold.



## Suggested Reptile Systems Products

### Medium / Large Black Clamp Lamp

Multi directional ceramic lamp fitting with reflector.

### Basking Halo Spot

Provides UVA and heat

### Zone 2 T5 lamp

UVB fluorescent full spectrum lamp, requires a ballast unit.

### Zone 2 T8 lamp

UVB fluorescent full spectrum lamp, requires a ballast unit.

### Zone 2 Eco Unit

UVB fluorescent full spectrum lamp, reliable electronic controller, and reflector kit.

### T8 Electronic Controller

Flicker free ballast unit for T8 lamps.

### Proten New Dawn LED

LED light source to support live plants.

### Ceramic Heat Emitter

Perfect from creating ambient heat with no light.

This care guide with adjustments could be applied to Blood Pythons, Angolan Python, Brazilian Rainbow Boas and Hogg Island Boas.

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