

Ball Python Care Guide Transcript
With Timestamps

00:05

Welcome to the complete ball python that

00:08

care guide today I'm going to be going

00:10

over everything you need to know to keep

00:12

your ball python happy and healthy now

00:14

actually made one of these exactly one

00:16

year ago complete coincidence that is

00:18

falling on the exact same day but over

00:20

the past year I've learned a lot and

00:22

gained a lot of my own experience so

00:24

this is the updated version no need to

00:26

watch the other one but if you come in

00:28

here from that

00:28

welcome to the updated version so I'm

00:30

here with my two ball pythons I'll go

00:32

ahead and put Sonny the larger one back

00:33

so that I can get the enclosure set up

00:35

and show you everything for this little

00:37

guy right here so a quick introduction

00:39

on ball pythons I think they are amazing

00:42

beginner animals or beginner reptiles

00:44

some people say they're not the best

00:46

because they do get a bit larger and

00:48

they can sometimes be a bit difficult

00:49

but I think if you do have an interest

00:51

in them and you are dedicated to

00:53

carrying it for it then you're going to

00:55

be completely fine with your animal as

00:57

long as you've done the research the

00:59

very slow-moving animal is very easy to

01:01

handle and the enclosure really isn't

01:03

going to be that large but we can go

01:05

ahead and start talking about the actual

01:06

sizes of the homes that they'll be put

01:09

in now lots of people are going to give

01:11

you different answers on this if you

01:12

really wanted to you could start your

01:14

ball python in the ten gallon if it's

01:16

the very smallest size but they're gonna

01:18

very quickly need an upgrade to 20 so I

01:20

would say just skip the 10 and go

01:21

directly to a 20 or something larger

01:24

adult lot pythons can potentially be in

01:27

a 20 for ever I don't suggest it for a

01:29

full size I would suggest something like

01:30

a 30 to 55 plus gallon enclosure

01:33

you might be thinking lots of people say

01:36

that enclosures can be too big what are

01:38

my thoughts on that I really don't think

01:40

that you can exceed a certain size limit

01:42

with ball pythons if you really wanted

01:45

you could put them in a hundred gallon

01:46

enclosure but the problem is is going to

01:48

be really difficult to maintain this and

01:50

you have to keep in mind that they enjoy

01:51

small spaces this is one of the reasons

01:53

lots of people say that you should put

01:55

them in very small tubs or racks and

01:57

although this can work it's that's a
02:00
small space and not small spaces if you
02:03
do something in a much larger enclosure
02:05
you can make multiple small spaces to
02:07
make the ball python feel safe well at
02:09
the same time giving that lots of space
02:11
to explore and find this other area
02:13
taking
02:13
- this also helps with the temperature
02:15
gradient because you're gonna want the
02:17
temperature to change around the
02:19
enclosure so the snake can actually
02:21
thermo regulate or change s body
02:23
temperature because they are cold
02:25
blooded but we'll get more into that
02:26
later also everything I'm talking about
02:28
is available in a link in the
02:30
description
02:31
we're just go to go herping comm slash
02:33
ball pythons where I have a complete

02:35

written out carry guide with everything

02:36

I'm going to be talking about and much

02:38

more there you can go to that anytime in

02:40

the video or afterwards and I also have

02:42

links to a kit with everything that

02:44

you're going to need to set up your ball

02:46

pythons enclosure using that list with

02:48

all of the supplies will help make sure

02:49

you actually have everything that you

02:51

need and if you buy stuff through those

02:53

links they go to Amazon links I should

02:55

get a small Commission for that so it's

02:56

a great way to support the channel but

02:58

let's go ahead and move on to the

03:00

substrate for this enclosure because

03:01

it's time to go ahead and set this thing

03:03

up I'm gonna go ahead and put him to the

03:05

side so we can focus on this so options

03:08

when it comes to different substrates it

03:10

really just seems to be endless there's
03:11
so many different subjects you can pick
03:13
from the ones I suggest however our
03:15
substrates that can hold a little bit of
03:17
moisture and keep the humidity up
03:18
because ball pythons do need higher
03:20
humidity and more moisture in the air
03:22
than other snakes we'll get onto that
03:25
later but the two that I suggest most
03:27
often are the zoomit eco earth or
03:29
another sort of coconut fiber substrate
03:32
these are readily available and easy to
03:34
find in lots of places but again I have
03:36
them linked below
03:36
so this eco earth or coconut fiber is
03:39
great for the ball python because one it
03:42
does not cause impaction which I've
03:44
talked about in other videos I also have
03:45
that linked below - it can hold a bit of
03:48
moisture without being too damp which

03:51

means it really helps with humidity and

03:52

three it is a loose substrate so if they

03:55

really wanted they can move around and

03:56

burrow in it it also just looks really

03:58

nice then what I like to do is mix this

04:00

eco earth with something called cypress

04:02

mulch I also buy this from zoom and it's

04:04

called the zoo mat forest floor

04:05

substrate wanted the substrate I get

04:07

asked about most often with ball pythons

04:09

is Aspen this is a wonderful substrate

04:12

for a lot of species of animals however

04:14

I highly do not suggest it for a ball

04:16

pythons because I used it in the past it

04:18

was one of the first types I used and my

04:20

ball python just kept getting stuck in

04:22

shed but as soon as I switched that

04:24

substrate out and got everything settled

04:26

it

04:27

much easier and he did not get stuck in
04:29
shed anymore the second ball python
04:30
which was actually rehomed to me when
04:33
they brought me that animal he was in an
04:34
enclosure with Aspen so the first thing
04:37
I did was replace that Aspen get him out
04:39
of his duck shed and next time I shed
04:41
came around he had no issues whatsoever
04:43
so when I do use Aspen I get it from zoo
04:45
Med and yes there is a ball python on
04:48
the cover and although in very rare
04:50
cases it can work out you're gonna have
04:52
just so much more luck with other
04:53
substrates because the Aspen cannot hold
04:55
moisture and if you do spray it and my
04:58
experience it gets moldy and gross and
05:00
sticks together it's it's really good
05:02
for desert animals keep it for more low
05:05
to moderate humidity wanting or loving
05:08
animals for example Kenyan sand boas so

05:11

let's go ahead and pop this enclosure

05:12

open which reminds me you have a lot of

05:14

different options with these enclosures

05:16

again this is a 20 gallon long and it

05:18

comes we can get it out it comes with a

05:21

latching top it's important that you

05:23

somehow get the enclosure to latch

05:24

completely because ball pythons are

05:26

strong and they will push a top off even

05:29

if you have an aquarium style with just

05:30

a lifting off lid get some little clips

05:32

that you can find that pet stores but I

05:34

also have those linked below you can

05:36

just clip them to the side and it keeps

05:37

the animals from pushing it off but this

05:39

is a sliding one so we can go ahead and

05:41

take it off and I'm gonna put my

05:42

substrates in here right here is the Eco

05:45

Earth I'm just gonna go ahead and dump

05:47

some out and then the forest floor just
05:50
have a little bit left but it should be
05:51
enough something else you might be
05:53
wondering is how much substrate should
05:54
you actually put in here well ball
05:56
pythons really aren't burrowing animals
05:59
and you actually will see a lot of
06:00
people that use things like newspaper
06:02
and paper towel with their animal since
06:04
they don't require a berberine substrate
06:05
and those do often work out just fine
06:07
but they don't look too great and
06:09
they're not always the easiest for good
06:12
humidity so hey you can kind of just
06:14
make an estimation on what you think
06:16
looks right keep in mind that the more
06:18
substrate you put the more difficult it
06:20
will be for heating to get up through
06:21
the bottle of this which we'll get onto
06:23
later but basically just doing what you

06:25

think looks good I'd say for a young one

06:28

made me do like an inch or two and then

06:31

if it does get larger you can probably

06:32

go up to even more and my larger ball

06:34

pythons enclose your I've about four to

06:36

six inches is up straight in there but

06:37

that's because I have a lot of plants

06:39

I'm not gonna be putting any plants in

06:41

this build but substage to avoid I did a

06:43

full video on this if you want to watch

06:45

it on the actual reasons that I don't

06:47

suggest the following substrates but

06:49

I'll just go over the list quickly first

06:51

being cedar second being pine third

06:54

being anything with walnut and fourth

06:56

being anything with sand whether that's

06:58

normal sand or kalsi sand which is

07:00

actually worse but if you do care about

07:02

the reasons behind those I have that

07:04

video linked below

07:05

next up let's just talk about hiding

07:07

places I've just got this small hide

07:10

right here your ball python like I said

07:12

they do love small spaces the more small

07:14

spaces the better because like I said

07:16

they can explore they have different

07:18

options different temperature things and

07:19

everything like that right now I only

07:21

have one hide for them but I can't

07:23

always get them more and I'm gonna go

07:25

ahead and put this on the same side that

07:27

I'm going to want my hot spot it's

07:30

important to keep that in mind you can

07:31

always ship stuff around but you're

07:33

going to want the main hide wherever

07:35

you're going to have the highest

07:36

temperatures but we'll learn how to do

07:37

that soon try and pick out a hide where

07:39

the snake can fit completely but feel

07:41

nice and secure so basically as small as

07:44

it can be with it's still fitting not a

07:45

huge deal if it's too big because they

07:47

are usually going to grow hopefully it's

07:49

going to grow so just estimating

07:50

something that I can fit in and feel

07:53

secure in some people will suggest the

07:55

log ones because they have Sun or not

07:57

sun but light coming in on both sides

07:59

because they will feel a bit safer in

08:01

darker areas I haven't had any bad

08:03

experiences with this but if you do want

08:05

to keep that in mind you can maybe look

08:07

for something that just has one opening

08:09

in the front but both of work for me

08:11

next up let's talk about water firstly

08:13

the water Bowl pretty simple thing

08:15

really what you should keep in mind is

08:17

you want a bowl that the snake can fit

08:20

in but can also get out of easily
08:21
although they can hold their breath for
08:23
a long time they can drown just like
08:25
many other animals so right now this
08:27
teeny tiny one it's just fine for the
08:29
little ball python but you're going to
08:31
need some bigger ones so I could go
08:33
ahead and get them a larger one I'll
08:34
just keep this for now though heavier
08:36
bowls I found are better because your
08:37
snake can not spill it or knock it over
08:39
even if you are just using something
08:41
like a simple plastic Tupperware just
08:43
stick a stone in it or something heavy
08:46
that won't get gross in the water and
08:48
it's completely safe to keep that thing
08:49
in place but yeah pretty simple thing
08:51
however something that's not
08:53
quite as simple is the water that you're
08:55
going to put in it

08:56

I did a full video on the waters which I

08:59

also have linked in the description I've

09:01

done a lot of videos they're all linked

09:02

in the description go check out that

09:03

description we got to keep in mind that

09:05

not everything in your tap water is safe

09:07

or whatever type of water you're using

09:08

very quick run down if you're using tap

09:11

water I suggest something like recta

09:13

safe which I have linked this removes a

09:15

chlorine and chloramine and ammonia in

09:17

the water if you want to be a lot more

09:18

wasteful and use a lot more plastic you

09:21

can use bottled water however you don't

09:23

want to use distilled because this does

09:25

not have any of the natural minerals in

09:26

it I use distilled for about a year and

09:29

I didn't have any issues but to avoid

09:31

any long-term consequences I stopped

09:33

using that and went with the tap water

09:35

with this you can also boil the water

09:37

but that uses a lot of energy you can

09:39

use purified water but yeah I've talked

09:41

about all that before some a simple

09:43

thing is if you're using tap water get a

09:45

reptile conditioner to remove all of

09:47

this has such as things in our water the

09:49

cleaner the water the happier and

09:50

healthier your animal will be to change

09:52

it as often as possible daily would be

09:55

amazing if you don't change it daily try

09:57

and do at least a few times a week ok

09:59

this is a big one that we're going to

10:01

talk about the temperatures and humidity

10:03

first let's talk about temperatures or

10:05

your ball python so ball pythons are

10:08

snakes snakes are cold-blooded

10:10

hopefully you knew that but because they

10:12

are cold-blooded they cannot control

10:15

their body temperature so what you want

10:17

to do is give them lots of different

10:18

options as to what temperature they can

10:20

be the hottest area is best at right

10:23

around 90 degrees

10:24

that's about the temperature that you

10:25

can find they can bask at in their

10:27

natural habitat and that's what a lot of

10:29

people have done for a long time so just

10:31

around 90 degrees Fahrenheit will be

10:33

perfect for them in that hot spot what

10:35

we're going to do is put all of the hot

10:36

elements on one side which means that

10:39

the temperature is going to cool down as

10:41

it comes to the cold side the cool side

10:43

it really doesn't matter as long as you

10:45

have that hot spot because they'll have

10:46

every temperature in between but it can

10:49

be just around 75 degrees I wouldn't let

10:52

the enclosure drop below 75 and then at

10:54

night you can turn off those main

10:56

heating elements but you want to make

10:58

sure that they don't drop below about 80

11:01

degrees at this time so that I do is I

11:03

keep my heat mat on at night

11:05

so it stays to just around 90 degrees

11:07

but they can always move around to

11:09

different areas if they want to cool off

11:10

at night while pythons are not basking

11:13

animals so please try to use heat maps

11:15

with your snake they are by far the best

11:18

in my opinion for these animals because

11:20

they are not just gonna hang out and

11:22

come out for a lamp although you can

11:24

potentially use lamps i really suggest

11:26

these it'll help them with digestion and

11:28

they'll feel much better because they

11:30

can hide and stay warm at the same time

11:32

you can also think about it with a snake

11:35
actually a basking out in the woods or
11:37
out wherever now they are under the Sun
11:40
but they're getting most of that heat
11:42
from whatever they're lying on if
11:43
they're lying on a rock they're soaking
11:45
up that heat from that rock we're just
11:47
going to be a below them so that's kind
11:48
of what this mimics this is a zoo Med
11:51
one it's I think it's for a ten to
11:53
twenty gallon but it might be a bit too
11:54
small if it is I can upgrade it you've
11:57
got lots of different sizes to choose
11:58
from some people say you should try and
12:00
cover about half the enclosure with a
12:01
heat mat that would be a gigantic heat
12:03
mat we're going for about a 1/3 of being
12:06
closer or so what the heat mat under it
12:08
is just fine a question I get a ton is
12:10
where does this actually go all I can
12:12

show you right now I don't know if you

12:14

can see me but because my height is on

12:15

this side I'm gonna put it over here now

12:18

you do not want this to go in the

12:19

enclosure it goes below the glass so

12:23

surface table rack whatever then heat

12:26

mat then the glass then the substrate

12:29

and then the snake lots of people get

12:31

confused and want to put it above the

12:33

glass and under the substrate don't do

12:35

that that's not right it should go under

12:37

the entire enclosure somebody's heat mat

12:39

stick others just slide into place but

12:43

try and get it right around the area of

12:45

that hide if you have a larger hide what

12:48

I like to do is try and get about half

12:50

the height covered so they can even cool

12:51

off while staying under that same hide

12:53

but this is not the only thing you want

12:55

to do for heating lots of heat mats get

12:57

super hot and even if you have a

12:59

substrate barrier between it the snake

13:02

can move that substrate and be directly

13:04

on that glass which can get really hot

13:06

in some cases exceeding hundred

13:08

something degrees is depending on just

13:10

how hot that mat is so reptile

13:12

thermostats are your best friend there's

13:14

lots of different thermostats available

13:15

this is the JumpStart thermostat I've

13:18

used this one in the Zillah one

13:19

there's about three others I've seen

13:21

that I haven't used I've had great luck

13:23

with the two that I've used so I have

13:24

them linked in that kit that you can

13:26

check out in the description but it's

13:27

very simple all that happens easy take

13:29

the heat mat and plug it into this

13:31

thermostat this thermostat then has a

13:33

probe this little probe measures the
13:35
temperature you put this probe into
13:37
place try and put it in the hottest
13:39
place in the enclosure so what I do is
13:41
bury it in the substrate so it touches a
13:43
glass right above that heat mat and then
13:46
on this thing they all work differently
13:48
but it'll come with instructions just
13:50
set it to the temperature you want so I
13:52
would just set this to ninety degrees
13:53
and then when it hits 90 degrees it'll
13:56
turn the heat mat off and then when it
13:58
goes a bit too cold I'll turn the heat
14:00
mat back on this is a great way to avoid
14:02
burns and keep your snake at the
14:05
temperature that it needs if you have
14:06
this on like all day and it's never
14:08
hitting that desired temperature then
14:10
your heat mat isn't hot enough and
14:12
you're going to need a one with a higher

14:14

wattage so again heat mat goes under the

14:17

glass so it's heat mat glass substrate

14:20

snake and then the heat mat plugs into

14:23

the thermostat so it's heat mat plugs

14:26

into thermostat thermostat plugs in the

14:28

wall probe goes into the place that you

14:30

want the temperature and then with the

14:32

thermostat you set the temperature that

14:33

you want okay but what about heat lamps

14:36

can I use them can I not should I should

14:38

I not whatever

14:40

well what lighting your snake does need

14:42

light some people think it's a good idea

14:44

to never give their snake lighting just

14:47

because they're nocturnal

14:48

but that's equivalent to you having the

14:50

Sun up 24/7 you have no idea when to

14:53

rest they're gonna make infused snakes

14:56

do pretty much follow a sleep schedule

14:58

when it gets dark the reptiles will
15:00
change their habits and then when it
15:02
gets light it'll change back again so
15:04
they know when to get rest when to be
15:05
active when to do whatever don't keep a
15:08
light on all the time don't keep a light
15:10
off all the time indirect light works
15:12
just from your room maybe like why I'm
15:14
using studio lights but if I turned the
15:17
light on in this room it could
15:18
potentially be enough the snake can see
15:20
that they don't require heat lamps
15:22
though see if your question was does my
15:24
snake need a heat mat well in the case
15:26
of ball pythons if you can get the right
15:28
temperature with just a heat mat you
15:30
don't need it well what I have to do in
15:32
the winter
15:33
it's at a ceramic bulb or some sort of
15:36
heat bulb but because the room is a bit

15:38

too cold so that helps bring the

15:40

temperature up to the exact point that

15:41

is needed but most of the time most of

15:44

the months in the year I can get the

15:45

temperature with just a mat okay well

15:47

what about nighttime bulbs can I use one

15:49

of these infrared bulbs on my ball

15:52

python well this is an EXO Tara heat

15:55

glow and I believe it's advertised as

15:58

infrared it's not infrared people get

16:00

confused because when they see a bulb

16:02

that's maybe a red or blue color they

16:04

think the snake can't see it

16:06

well they might not see the same colors

16:08

as us however they can still see the

16:10

light just fine so if this light is on

16:12

them and it's too bright as humanly

16:14

bothersome and it's equivalent to their

16:16

being the Sun up all the time pretty

16:18

much so then so you have a super dim
16:20
bulb
16:20
I don't suggest any heat lighting to be
16:23
safe just don't use any that's my
16:24
opinion on that if you're interested in
16:26
checking up on the temperatures and your
16:28
enclosure and great ready to do it is
16:30
with a temp gun I use the etekcity
16:33
infrared someone suggested this to me
16:35
a good few months ago and I've been
16:37
using it a lot a lot of you have bought
16:39
it and said that it's helped out a lot
16:41
Sukie are interested in this it's linked
16:43
below with an amazon link so you can buy
16:45
it it's like pretty cheap like
16:47
twenty-something bucks if I'm right so
16:49
go check that out
16:50
and pick one up if you want to be able
16:52
to very easily check the temperatures in
16:54
your enclosure remember don't shine this

16:57

at your animal or in their light unless

16:59

you want to blind them you don't want to

17:01

blind them okay next thing to talk about

17:04

is humidity this is the amount of

17:06

moisture in the air it's measured with a

17:08

percentage from zero to 100% because

17:10

that's how percentages work the goal for

17:12

a ball python it's just around 60 to 65%

17:16

or so this is more moisture than what's

17:19

in most people's homes

17:20

I know depending on where you live it's

17:23

going to be really different for me in

17:24

the summer the humidity in the room is

17:26

about 50 percent and then in the winter

17:28

it's about 30% some of you never have

17:31

above 10% some of you never have below

17:33

90% if you're on the lower side the

17:36

substrate is usually going to be enough

17:38

to get it to the right humidity you can

17:40

measure this with lots of different
17:42
gauges the one I've been using is a
17:44
little Paulus one is
17:46
so that's the company that it's from
17:47
it's like five bucks very easy and
17:49
simple to use so you can go check that
17:51
out in the kit but you just put that
17:52
probe into place just try and get it
17:54
kind of you know in an average area
17:56
because you want the whole enclosure to
17:58
be about sixty to sixty-five percent a
18:00
while back I dedicated a whole video to
18:02
increasing and decreasing the humidity
18:04
in your enclosure but yeah the main way
18:06
is don't let your substrate get super
18:08
wet because this can cause issues like
18:10
scale rot on your animal however giving
18:13
it a very quick spray down here and
18:15
there when it needs to come up should
18:17
usually be sufficient another great way

18:19

I found is once the top is on if you are

18:21

using an enclosure with a fully screened

18:24

top you can cover parts of this screen I

18:27

wouldn't cover more than like half of it

18:29

but you can put plastic over it you can

18:31

put wet rags over it and things like

18:34

that can help with humidity too this is

18:35

one of the reasons a lot of people

18:36

suggest using plastic tubs for your

18:38

snake because there's just holes drilled

18:40

into it so there's less ventilation

18:42

enough for it to be healthy but just a

18:44

little bit of ventilation so that the

18:46

moisture stays in the enclosure some

18:48

people say you should never use these

18:49

aquariums because there's just too much

18:51

ventilation but it's worked for me just

18:53

fine for years so do whichever one you

18:56

want and you can achieve the right

18:57

levels with both options next let's talk
19:00
about feeding this is a few hundred
19:02
frozen mice they come in a ton of
19:04
different sizes actually all of my
19:06
snakes have to eat different sized mice
19:08
right now so it's kind of annoying but I
19:10
make it work so I'm gonna go put these
19:11
back before they all felt so yeah ball
19:14
pythons are usually gonna start on mice
19:16
and then as they get larger they're
19:18
gonna move on to rats a lot of people
19:20
say she get them on the rest as soon as
19:21
possible because sometimes it is
19:22
difficult to get them to switch from one
19:24
to the other with my larger ball python
19:27
I didn't have any trouble switching them
19:28
but yours might be a bit more picky
19:30
this also brings up one of the biggest
19:32
downsides of ball pythons not being they
19:35
are often picky and weird about eating

19:37

but it is manageable so the ball python

19:39

breeding season starts in November and

19:42

then goes to the start of the year

19:43

during this time it's not uncommon for

19:45

them to stop eating so if they are not

19:47

eating around that time they're probably

19:50

completely fine they also just go off

19:52

feed at other random times throughout

19:53

the year if they want mine actually

19:55

rarely do other than that one little

19:57

breeding season section

19:59

with my larger one but if your snake

20:00

misses a couple meals and it doesn't eat

20:02

then that's fine it's not a huge deal

20:05

some snakes go months and months and

20:07

months without eating so it's kind of

20:09

crazy how long they can go but if you

20:11

are getting concerned because they just

20:12

aren't eating they've tried a bunch of

20:13

different things you might want to
20:15
consider a bit but I would just do a
20:16
bunch of research on possible reasons
20:19
why it's not eating it kind of common
20:20
with ball pythons they probably go off
20:22
feed the most
20:23
compared to other snakes but it's
20:26
manageable but how often should you feed
20:28
your snake and what size will I feed
20:30
mine weekly and if a you aren't feeding
20:32
weekly the best thing to do is try and
20:35
get a mouse that has the same girth as
20:37
the largest part of your snake so the
20:39
snakes largest part is usually right on
20:41
their belly try and find a mouse or rat
20:43
that matches up to them there's lots of
20:45
different sizes they start as small as
20:47
pinkies or ball pythons can usually
20:49
start on hoppers and then move up
20:51
throughout the sizes as they go person

20:53

thought it's always the way to go I did

20:55

a video on that with live versus frozen

20:58

thawed food but they're pretty easy to

20:59

find I just order them in bulk online or

21:02

we can buy them in pet stores it'll just

21:04

be more expensive because you are buying

21:05

smaller amounts but once you find that

21:07

size that you need you can just all that

21:09

Mouse out what I do is I just put the

21:11

mouse in a plastic bag or rat and then

21:13

put it in warm to hot tap water and then

21:16

let it sit there for maybe 15 to 20

21:18

minutes I might need to replace the

21:20

water halfway through and then just do

21:22

it until the mouse is at least room

21:23

temperature but preferably a bit warmer

21:26

because ball pythons don't have great

21:27

vision they usually go based on heat

21:29

it's good to put them in a bag before

21:31

you throw them out because sometimes you

21:33

can wash that scent off of the mouse if

21:35

they're directly in the water I've been

21:37

fine both ways but it's a good way to

21:39

just have better luck with feeding some

21:41

things you cannot feed your ball python

21:43

firstly they can't eat vegan diets yes

21:47

I've been asked if you fast and I'm

21:50

sorry but they can't secondly they

21:52

cannot eat just raw meat because it's

21:55

not gonna have everything they need my

21:57

mouse has everything

21:58

for example the bones are going to give

22:00

it calcium this is one of the reasons

22:02

they don't need any supplements because

22:04

that entire rodents is going to have

22:06

everything they need so yeah feel free

22:08

to ask more questions about that but

22:09

that's really the general stuff on

22:11

feeding you

22:11

snake also okay very important don't use

22:15

feeding tubs

22:16

don't move your snake to feed it lots of

22:18

people do this just no caged aggression

22:21

or whatever you want to call it has

22:22

never been proven therefore it's a

22:24

complete myth in fact moving it is a

22:26

worse idea because that movement back

22:28

and forth will increase the chance to

22:30

save your snake not eating because it'll

22:32

freak out or stress out and also there's

22:35

a higher chance is going to vomit or

22:37

regurgitate that food when you move them

22:39

back some people just leave them in that

22:41

separate feeding tub like overnight or

22:44

whatever the problem with this is in

22:45

locking in the right temperatures they

22:46

need therefore they might have more

22:48

difficulty digesting that food it's just

22:51

I did a whole video on it also linked
22:53
below of course the long story short
22:55
features making the enclosure it's way
22:58
easier even if a little substrate gets
23:00
stuck as long as you're making good
23:01
choices they won't get impacted they'll
23:03
just pass it with no problem now it's
23:05
important to wait a little while after
23:07
you feed the snake before you mess with
23:09
it because this stress on them will
23:11
bring the chances of them regurgitating
23:13
the food up which is not a thing that
23:15
you want now how long you should wait is
23:17
really different if you ask different
23:19
people some people say you should wait
23:21
up to two days others say one day others
23:24
even say like overnight it really kind
23:27
of depends on the snake honestly I can
23:29
handle my snakes just a couple hours
23:31
after feeding without problems some of

23:33

them at least

23:33

I still don't just because there's no

23:35

reason to it's just best to let them sit

23:38

and digest but usually what I say is to

23:40

wait 24 hours after feeding if you think

23:42

it needs longer go longer but there's no

23:45

exact time that they're gonna be like

23:47

okay now I can be held so just kind of

23:50

watch your snake and figure it out but

23:51

one to two days after feeding is best oh

23:53

yeah you can see we just went over all

23:56

the care and just about half an hour so

23:58

there's really not much to it yes you

24:00

want to be careful of course you want to

24:02

do the best setup you can but overall

24:05

it's a very simple snake and as long as

24:07

you did the research I suggest that you

24:09

do a lot more research in addition to

24:11

this video in case there are things I

24:13

missed

24:13

I understood as much as I could based on

24:15

my experience in research definitely

24:17

worth getting one keep in mind they do

24:19

live quite a while they can live up to

24:21

30 to 40 plus years but yeah a great

24:24

animal to have

24:25

and one of my favorites so again you can

24:28

see the whole written out care guy that

24:29

go herping comm slash ball pythons you

24:32

can find the kit with all the stuff I

24:33

used to make this set up in the link in

24:36

the description but that's gonna be it

24:38

limited to leave your tips leave your

24:39

other husbandry ideas and stuff you do

24:42

stick if you think I should do ideas of

24:44

what I should do in the future whatever

24:46

leave whatever you'd like in the

24:47

comments but that's going to be it for

24:49

this video

24:50

so I'm Alex and thanks for watching

24:55

[Music]

25:05

[Music]

Without Timestamps

Welcome to the complete ball python
care guide today I'm going to be going
over everything you need to know to keep
your ball python happy and healthy now
actually made one of these exactly one
year ago complete coincidence that is
falling on the exact same day but over
the past year I've learned a lot and
gained a lot of my own experience so
this is the updated version no need to
watch the other one but if you come in
here from that
welcome to the updated version so I'm
here with my two ball pythons I'll go
ahead and put Sonny the larger one back
so that I can get the enclosure set up
and show you everything for this little
guy right here so a quick introduction

on ball pythons I think they are amazing
beginner animals or beginner reptiles
some people say they're not the best
because they do get a bit larger and
they can sometimes be a bit difficult
but I think if you do have an interest
in them and you are dedicated to
carrying it for it then you're going to
be completely fine with your animal as
long as you've done the research the
very slow-moving animal is very easy to
handle and the enclosure really isn't
going to be that large but we can go
ahead and start talking about the actual
sizes of the homes that they'll be put
in now lots of people are going to give
you different answers on this if you
really wanted to you could start your

ball python in the ten gallon if it's
the very smallest size but they're gonna
very quickly need an upgrade to 20 so I
would say just skip the 10 and go
directly to a 20 or something larger
adult lot pythons can potentially be in
a 20 for ever I don't suggest it for a
full size I would suggest something like
a 30 to 55 plus gallon enclosure
you might be thinking lots of people say
that enclosures can be too big what are
my thoughts on that I really don't think
that you can exceed a certain size limit
with ball pythons if you really wanted
you could put them in a hundred gallon
enclosure but the problem is is going to
be really difficult to maintain this and
you have to keep in mind that they enjoy

small spaces this is one of the reasons
lots of people say that you should put
them in very small tubs or racks and
although this can work it's that's a
small space and not small spaces if you
do something in a much larger enclosure
you can make multiple small spaces to
make the ball python feel safe well at
the same time giving that lots of space
to explore and find this other area
taking

- this also helps with the temperature
gradient because you're gonna want the
temperature to change around the
enclosure so the snake can actually
thermo regulate or change s body
temperature because they are cold
blooded but we'll get more into that

later also everything I'm talking about
is available in a link in the
description
we're just go to go herping comm slash
ball pythons where I have a complete
written out carry guide with everything
I'm going to be talking about and much
more there you can go to that anytime in
the video or afterwards and I also have
links to a kit with everything that
you're going to need to set up your ball
pythons enclosure using that list with
all of the supplies will help make sure
you actually have everything that you
need and if you buy stuff through those
links they go to Amazon links I should
get a small Commission for that so it's
a great way to support the channel but

let's go ahead and move on to the
substrate for this enclosure because
it's time to go ahead and set this thing
up I'm gonna go ahead and put him to the
side so we can focus on this so options
when it comes to different substrates it
really just seems to be endless there's
so many different subjects you can pick
from the ones I suggest however our
substrates that can hold a little bit of
moisture and keep the humidity up
because ball pythons do need higher
humidity and more moisture in the air
than other snakes we'll get onto that
later but the two that I suggest most
often are the zoomit eco earth or
another sort of coconut fiber substrate
these are readily available and easy to

find in lots of places but again I have
them linked below
so this eco earth or coconut fiber is
great for the ball python because one it
does not cause impaction which I've
talked about in other videos I also have
that linked below - it can hold a bit of
moisture without being too damp which
means it really helps with humidity and
three it is a loose substrate so if they
really wanted they can move around and
burrow in it it also just looks really
nice then what I like to do is mix this
eco earth with something called cypress
mulch I also buy this from zoom and it's
called the zoo mat forest floor
substrate wanted the substrate I get
asked about most often with ball pythons

is Aspen this is a wonderful substrate
for a lot of species of animals however
I highly do not suggest it for a ball
pythons because I used it in the past it
was one of the first types I used and my
ball python just kept getting stuck in
shed but as soon as I switched that
substrate out and got everything settled
it
much easier and he did not get stuck in
shed anymore the second ball python
which was actually rehomed to me when
they brought me that animal he was in an
enclosure with Aspen so the first thing
I did was replace that Aspen get him out
of his duck shed and next time I shed
came around he had no issues whatsoever
so when I do use Aspen I get it from zoo

Med and yes there is a ball python on
the cover and although in very rare
cases it can work out you're gonna have
just so much more luck with other
substrates because the Aspen cannot hold
moisture and if you do spray it and my
experience it gets moldy and gross and
sticks together it's it's really good
for desert animals keep it for more low
to moderate humidity wanting or loving
animals for example Kenyan sand boas so
let's go ahead and pop this enclosure
open which reminds me you have a lot of
different options with these enclosures
again this is a 20 gallon long and it
comes we can get it out it comes with a
latching top it's important that you
somehow get the enclosure to latch

completely because ball pythons are strong and they will push a top off even if you have an aquarium style with just a lifting off lid get some little clips that you can find that pet stores but I also have those linked below you can just clip them to the side and it keeps the animals from pushing it off but this is a sliding one so we can go ahead and take it off and I'm gonna put my substrates in here right here is the Eco Earth I'm just gonna go ahead and dump some out and then the forest floor just have a little bit left but it should be enough something else you might be wondering is how much substrate should you actually put in here well ball pythons really aren't burrowing animals

and you actually will see a lot of
people that use things like newspaper
and paper towel with their animal since
they don't require a berberine substrate
and those do often work out just fine
but they don't look too great and
they're not always the easiest for good
humidity so hey you can kind of just
make an estimation on what you think
looks right keep in mind that the more
substrate you put the more difficult it
will be for heating to get up through
the bottle of this which we'll get onto
later but basically just doing what you
think looks good I'd say for a young one
made me do like an inch or two and then
if it does get larger you can probably
go up to even more and my larger ball

pythons enclose your I've about four to
six inches is up straight in there but
that's because I have a lot of plants
I'm not gonna be putting any plants in
this build but substage to avoid I did a
full video on this if you want to watch
it on the actual reasons that I don't
suggest the following substrates but
I'll just go over the list quickly first
being cedar second being pine third
being anything with walnut and fourth
being anything with sand whether that's
normal sand or kalsi sand which is
actually worse but if you do care about
the reasons behind those I have that
video linked below
next up let's just talk about hiding
places I've just got this small hide

right here your ball python like I said
they do love small spaces the more small
spaces the better because like I said
they can explore they have different
options different temperature things and
everything like that right now I only
have one hide for them but I can't
always get them more and I'm gonna go
ahead and put this on the same side that
I'm going to want my hot spot it's
important to keep that in mind you can
always ship stuff around but you're
going to want the main hide wherever
you're going to have the highest
temperatures but we'll learn how to do
that soon try and pick out a hide where
the snake can fit completely but feel
nice and secure so basically as small as

it can be with it's still fitting not a
huge deal if it's too big because they
are usually going to grow hopefully it's
going to grow so just estimating
something that I can fit in and feel
secure in some people will suggest the
log ones because they have Sun or not
sun but light coming in on both sides
because they will feel a bit safer in
darker areas I haven't had any bad
experiences with this but if you do want
to keep that in mind you can maybe look
for something that just has one opening
in the front but both of work for me
next up let's talk about water firstly
the water Bowl pretty simple thing
really what you should keep in mind is
you want a bowl that the snake can fit

in but can also get out of easily
although they can hold their breath for
a long time they can drown just like
many other animals so right now this
teeny tiny one it's just fine for the
little ball python but you're going to
need some bigger ones so I could go
ahead and get them a larger one I'll
just keep this for now though heavier
bowls I found are better because your
snake can not spill it or knock it over
even if you are just using something
like a simple plastic Tupperware just
stick a stone in it or something heavy
that won't get gross in the water and
it's completely safe to keep that thing
in place but yeah pretty simple thing
however something that's not

quite as simple is the water that you're
going to put in it

I did a full video on the waters which I
also have linked in the description I've
done a lot of videos they're all linked
in the description go check out that
description we got to keep in mind that
not everything in your tap water is safe
or whatever type of water you're using
very quick run down if you're using tap
water I suggest something like recta
safe which I have linked this removes a
chlorine and chloramine and ammonia in
the water if you want to be a lot more
wasteful and use a lot more plastic you
can use bottled water however you don't
want to use distilled because this does
not have any of the natural minerals in

it I use distilled for about a year and
I didn't have any issues but to avoid
any long-term consequences I stopped
using that and went with the tap water
with this you can also boil the water
but that uses a lot of energy you can
use purified water but yeah I've talked
about all that before some a simple
thing is if you're using tap water get a
reptile conditioner to remove all of
this has such as things in our water the
cleaner the water the happier and
healthier your animal will be to change
it as often as possible daily would be
amazing if you don't change it daily try
and do at least a few times a week ok
this is a big one that we're going to
talk about the temperatures and humidity

first let's talk about temperatures or
your ball python so ball pythons are
snakes snakes are cold-blooded
hopefully you knew that but because they
are cold-blooded they cannot control
their body temperature so what you want
to do is give them lots of different
options as to what temperature they can
be the hottest area is best at right
around 90 degrees
that's about the temperature that you
can find they can bask at in their
natural habitat and that's what a lot of
people have done for a long time so just
around 90 degrees Fahrenheit will be
perfect for them in that hot spot what
we're going to do is put all of the hot
elements on one side which means that

the temperature is going to cool down as
it comes to the cold side the cool side
it really doesn't matter as long as you
have that hot spot because they'll have
every temperature in between but it can
be just around 75 degrees I wouldn't let
the enclosure drop below 75 and then at
night you can turn off those main
heating elements but you want to make
sure that they don't drop below about 80
degrees at this time so that I do is I
keep my heat mat on at night
so it stays to just around 90 degrees
but they can always move around to
different areas if they want to cool off
at night while pythons are not basking
animals so please try to use heat mats
with your snake they are by far the best

in my opinion for these animals because
they are not just gonna hang out and
come out for a lamp although you can
potentially use lamps i really suggest
these it'll help them with digestion and
they'll feel much better because they
can hide and stay warm at the same time
you can also think about it with a snake
actually a basking out in the woods or
out wherever now they are under the Sun
but they're getting most of that heat
from whatever they're lying on if
they're lying on a rock they're soaking
up that heat from that rock we're just
going to be a below them so that's kind
of what this mimics this is a zoo Med
one it's I think it's for a ten to
twenty gallon but it might be a bit too

small if it is I can upgrade it you've
got lots of different sizes to choose
from some people say you should try and
cover about half the enclosure with a
heat mat that would be a gigantic heat
mat we're going for about a 1/3 of being
closer or so what the heat mat under it
is just fine a question I get a ton is
where does this actually go all I can
show you right now I don't know if you
can see me but because my height is on
this side I'm gonna put it over here now
you do not want this to go in the
enclosure it goes below the glass so
surface table rack whatever then heat
mat then the glass then the substrate
and then the snake lots of people get
confused and want to put it above the

glass and under the substrate don't do
that that's not right it should go under
the entire enclosure somebody's heat mat
stick others just slide into place but
try and get it right around the area of
that hide if you have a larger hide what
I like to do is try and get about half
the height covered so they can even cool
off while staying under that same hide
but this is not the only thing you want
to do for heating lots of heat mats get
super hot and even if you have a
substrate barrier between it the snake
can move that substrate and be directly
on that glass which can get really hot
in some cases exceeding hundred
something degrees is depending on just
how hot that mat is so reptile

thermostats are your best friend there's
lots of different thermostats available
this is the JumpStart thermostat I've
used this one in the Zillah one
there's about three others I've seen
that I haven't used I've had great luck
with the two that I've used so I have
them linked in that kit that you can
check out in the description but it's
very simple all that happens easy take
the heat mat and plug it into this
thermostat this thermostat then has a
probe this little probe measures the
temperature you put this probe into
place try and put it in the hottest
place in the enclosure so what I do is
bury it in the substrate so it touches a
glass right above that heat mat and then

on this thing they all work differently
but it'll come with instructions just
set it to the temperature you want so I
would just set this to ninety degrees
and then when it hits 90 degrees it'll
turn the heat mat off and then when it
goes a bit too cold I'll turn the heat
mat back on this is a great way to avoid
burns and keep your snake at the
temperature that it needs if you have
this on like all day and it's never
hitting that desired temperature then
your heat mat isn't hot enough and
you're going to need a one with a higher
wattage so again heat mat goes under the
glass so it's heat mat glass substrate
snake and then the heat mat plugs into
the thermostat so it's heat mat plugs

into thermostat thermostat plugs in the
wall probe goes into the place that you
want the temperature and then with the
thermostat you set the temperature that
you want okay but what about heat lamps
can I use them can I not should I should
I not whatever
well what lighting your snake does need
light some people think it's a good idea
to never give their snake lighting just
because they're nocturnal
but that's equivalent to you having the
Sun up 24/7 you have no idea when to
rest they're gonna make infused snakes
do pretty much follow a sleep schedule
when it gets dark the reptiles will
change their habits and then when it
gets light it'll change back again so

they know when to get rest when to be
active when to do whatever don't keep a
light on all the time don't keep a light
off all the time indirect light works
just from your room maybe like why I'm
using studio lights but if I turned the
light on in this room it could
potentially be enough the snake can see
that they don't require heat lamps
though see if your question was does my
snake need a heat mat well in the case
of ball pythons if you can get the right
temperature with just a heat mat you
don't need it well what I have to do in
the winter
it's at a ceramic bulb or some sort of
heat bulb but because the room is a bit
too cold so that helps bring the

temperature up to the exact point that
is needed but most of the time most of
the months in the year I can get the
temperature with just a mat okay well
what about nighttime bulbs can I use one
of these infrared bulbs on my ball
python well this is an EXO Tara heat
glow and I believe it's advertised as
infrared it's not infrared people get
confused because when they see a bulb
that's maybe a red or blue color they
think the snake can't see it
well they might not see the same colors
as us however they can still see the
light just fine so if this light is on
them and it's too bright as humanly
bothersome and it's equivalent to their
being the Sun up all the time pretty

much so then so you have a super dim
bulb

I don't suggest any heat lighting to be
safe just don't use any that's my

opinion on that if you're interested in

checking up on the temperatures and your

enclosure and great ready to do it is

with a temp gun I use the etekcity

infrared someone suggested this to me

a good few months ago and I've been

using it a lot a lot of you have bought

it and said that it's helped out a lot

Sukie are interested in this it's linked

below with an amazon link so you can buy

it it's like pretty cheap like

twenty-something bucks if I'm right so

go check that out

and pick one up if you want to be able

to very easily check the temperatures in
your enclosure remember don't shine this
at your animal or in their light unless
you want to blind them you don't want to
blind them okay next thing to talk about
is humidity this is the amount of
moisture in the air it's measured with a
percentage from zero to 100% because
that's how percentages work the goal for
a ball python it's just around 60 to 65%
or so this is more moisture than what's
in most people's homes
I know depending on where you live it's
going to be really different for me in
the summer the humidity in the room is
about 50 percent and then in the winter
it's about 30% some of you never have
above 10% some of you never have below

90% if you're on the lower side the substrate is usually going to be enough to get it to the right humidity you can measure this with lots of different gauges the one I've been using is a little Paulus one is so that's the company that it's from it's like five bucks very easy and simple to use so you can go check that out in the kit but you just put that probe into place just try and get it kind of you know in an average area because you want the whole enclosure to be about sixty to sixty-five percent a while back I dedicated a whole video to increasing and decreasing the humidity in your enclosure but yeah the main way is don't let your substrate get super

wet because this can cause issues like
scale rot on your animal however giving
it a very quick spray down here and
there when it needs to come up should
usually be sufficient another great way
I found is once the top is on if you are
using an enclosure with a fully screened
top you can cover parts of this screen I
wouldn't cover more than like half of it
but you can put plastic over it you can
put wet rags over it and things like
that can help with humidity too this is
one of the reasons a lot of people
suggest using plastic tubs for your
snake because there's just holes drilled
into it so there's less ventilation
enough for it to be healthy but just a
little bit of ventilation so that the

moisture stays in the enclosure some people say you should never use these aquariums because there's just too much ventilation but it's worked for me just fine for years so do whichever one you want and you can achieve the right levels with both options next let's talk about feeding this is a few hundred frozen mice they come in a ton of different sizes actually all of my snakes have to eat different sized mice right now so it's kind of annoying but I make it work so I'm gonna go put these back before they all melt so yeah ball pythons are usually gonna start on mice and then as they get larger they're gonna move on to rats a lot of people say she get them on the rest as soon as

possible because sometimes it is
difficult to get them to switch from one
to the other with my larger ball python
I didn't have any trouble switching them
but yours might be a bit more picky
this also brings up one of the biggest
downsides of ball pythons not being they
are often picky and weird about eating
but it is manageable so the ball python
breeding season starts in November and
then goes to the start of the year
during this time it's not uncommon for
them to stop eating so if they are not
eating around that time they're probably
completely fine they also just go off
feed at other random times throughout
the year if they want mine actually
rarely do other than that one little

breeding season section

with my larger one but if your snake

misses a couple meals and it doesn't eat

then that's fine it's not a huge deal

some snakes go months and months and

months without eating so it's kind of

crazy how long they can go but if you

are getting concerned because they just

aren't eating they've tried a bunch of

different things you might want to

consider a bit but I would just do a

bunch of research on possible reasons

why it's not eating it kind of common

with ball pythons they probably go off

feed the most

compared to other snakes but it's

manageable but how often should you feed

your snake and what size will I feed

mine weekly and if you aren't feeding weekly the best thing to do is try and get a mouse that has the same girth as the largest part of your snake so the snake's largest part is usually right on their belly try and find a mouse or rat that matches up to them there's lots of different sizes they start as small as pinkies or ball pythons can usually start on hoppers and then move up throughout the sizes as they go person thought it's always the way to go I did a video on that with live versus frozen thawed food but they're pretty easy to find I just order them in bulk online or we can buy them in pet stores it'll just be more expensive because you are buying smaller amounts but once you find that

size that you need you can just all that
Mouse out what I do is I just put the
mouse in a plastic bag or rat and then
put it in warm to hot tap water and then
let it sit there for maybe 15 to 20
minutes I might need to replace the
water halfway through and then just do
it until the mouse is at least room
temperature but preferably a bit warmer
because ball pythons don't have great
vision they usually go based on heat
it's good to put them in a bag before
you throw them out because sometimes you
can wash that scent off of the mouse if
they're directly in the water I've been
fine both ways but it's a good way to
just have better luck with feeding some
things you cannot feed your ball python

firstly they can't eat vegan diets yes
I've been asked if you fast and I'm
sorry but they can't secondly they
cannot eat just raw meat because it's
not gonna have everything they need my
mouse has everything
for example the bones are going to give
it calcium this is one of the reasons
they don't need any supplements because
that entire rodents is going to have
everything they need so yeah feel free
to ask more questions about that but
that's really the general stuff on
feeding you
snake also okay very important don't use
feeding tubs
don't move your snake to feed it lots of
people do this just no caged aggression

or whatever you want to call it has
never been proven therefore it's a
complete myth in fact moving it is a
worse idea because that movement back
and forth will increase the chance to
save your snake not eating because it'll
freak out or stress out and also there's
a higher chance is going to vomit or
regurgitate that food when you move them
back some people just leave them in that
separate feeding tub like overnight or
whatever the problem with this is in
locking in the right temperatures they
need therefore they might have more
difficulty digesting that food it's just
I did a whole video on it also linked
below of course the long story short
features making the enclosure it's way

easier even if a little substrate gets
stuck as long as you're making good
choices they won't get impacted they'll
just pass it with no problem now it's
important to wait a little while after
you feed the snake before you mess with
it because this stress on them will
bring the chances of them regurgitating
the food up which is not a thing that
you want now how long you should wait is
really different if you ask different
people some people say you should wait
up to two days others say one day others
even say like overnight it really kind
of depends on the snake honestly I can
handle my snakes just a couple hours
after feeding without problems some of
them at least

I still don't just because there's no
reason to it's just best to let them sit
and digest but usually what I say is to
wait 24 hours after feeding if you think
it needs longer go longer but there's no
exact time that they're gonna be like
okay now I can be held so just kind of
watch your snake and figure it out but
one to two days after feeding is best oh
yeah you can see we just went over all
the care and just about half an hour so
there's really not much to it yes you
want to be careful of course you want to
do the best setup you can but overall
it's a very simple snake and as long as
you did the research I suggest that you
do a lot more research in addition to
this video in case there are things I

missed

I understood as much as I could based on

my experience in research definitely

worth getting one keep in mind they do

live quite a while they can live up to

30 to 40 plus years but yeah a great

animal to have

and one of my favorites so again you can

see the whole written out care guy that

go herping comm slash ball pythons you

can find the kit with all the stuff I

used to make this set up in the link in

the description but that's gonna be it

limited to leave your tips leave your

other husbandry ideas and stuff you do

stick if you think I should do ideas of

what I should do in the future whatever

leave whatever you'd like in the

comments but that's going to be it for

this video

so I'm Alex and thanks for watching

[Music]

[Music]