



5435, chemin de Chambly  
Saint-Hubert, J3Y 3P2, QC  
(450) 443-1461

## Royal Python



Adequate temperature		
	Hot spot	Cold spot
Day temperature	32 °C	28 °C
Night temperature	28 °C	26 °C

### Main Features:

The royal python is a medium sized and massive snake. Its color is cryptic. The black of the top of the head and the back contrasts with the beige or the yellow in the form of broad rounded spots. The dress thus constituted is specific to each individual and is the equivalent of the fingerprints of the human. This snake is an excellent reptile for beginners because it is generally harmless.

### Captivity:

The habitat of the Royal Python must be at least 95 cm x 50 cm x 50 cm and be equipped with a cover, a heating system and a lighting system emitting ultraviolet rays. Humidity (60-70%) and temperature (see chart above) should be carefully monitored to preserve the health of your python. To maintain the proper temperature, a heating mat, out of reach of the animal, can be used as well as a heat lamp not accessible for the latter. The carpet must be installed under the terrarium to avoid any direct contact. If the animal has access to the heating source, the risk of burns is close to 100%. A reptile does not feel the heat on its skin, it is only once it is too late that it feels the injury. The royal python must have a UV lamp in its habitat! This lamp is essential to his good health because it provides a source of calcium that is normally provided by the sun during his tanning sessions. This lamp should work 10-12h per day and be changed every 6 months to maintain its effectiveness! At night this lamp should be off, unlike the heat lamp that must work all day. In order to better control the time of exposure to UV light, the degree of humidity and to maintain an adequate temperature, it is strongly recommended to obtain a thermometer and a hygrometer to better control the variants. The ideal is to get a thermostat that will regulate the temperature and a timer to better control the UV lighting time, but it is important to make sure that it always works, even after several years! a boa must retain moisture. The use of Aspen or chips is recommended. A gravel or sand substrate is not recommended because of the risk of the animal ingesting this product, which can cause an intestinal blockage. Moreover, it is strongly recommended to feed your snake out of the vivarium in order to decrease the risk of bites. It is however possible to use the sand, if you feed your snake out of its vivarium. Do not forget to add a bowl of water large enough for him to enter completely. This snake likes to hide in a ball in a hiding place decorated with foliage. Adding one or two hiding places will be beneficial.



## **Food :**

The royal python is a strict carnivore! It is therefore obligatory to provide him with prey so that he can feed himself and satisfy his predatory instinct. In the wild, they feed on small mammals. In domestic life, you can offer him rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and so on. If your pet tolerates it, you can give dead animals (from where you know the source) to minimize the risk of injury. For the juvenile royal python, it is recommended to feed it every 5 to 7 days, whereas in the adult, it is recommended to feed it every 10 days.

## **Frequent health problems:**

- **Infections:** Infections can occur in the mouth (stomatitis), on the skin (bacterial or fungal) or in the form of abscess. This condition is often the cause of poor nutrition, excess moisture or poor hygiene.
- **Parasites:** A snake can sometimes catch parasites in many ways, such as having been outside, being in a boarding house or pet shop or coming from their live food (mice, insects, etc.). If the animal is not treated following the appearance of parasites, it could become anemic and die. Parasites feed on your pet's blood, where they can find the nutrients they need for survival.
- **Moult problem:** A reptile moults several times a year. The moult consists of a change of skin. The animal grows up and the scales become too tight on it. He develops new ones and the old ones have to leave. A moult problem occurs when the degree of humidity is not adequate. When a skin starts to come off, it is important not to shoot.
- **Obstruction:** An uninformed owner may offer an oversized animal as a meal to his snake. The snake sometimes has eyes bigger than the belly and tries to eat its prey. That's when he risks choking!
- **Cloacal Prolapse:** A cloacal prolapse is an externalization of part of the digestive system of your reptile. It is therefore possible to see part of the intestine of your reptile out its cloaca (opening that connects the anus and the reproductive system).

As with all animals, it is recommended that an examination be conducted after the purchase of a new reptile and an annual check is required. The annual exam helps prevent health problems that may occur and thus save the life of your pet. If in doubt, a visit to the veterinarian is required! A reptile, whatever it is, will hide its symptoms so as not to become an easy prey for predators (humans). At the slightest change in behavior, contact your veterinarian.

