



Reticulated Python

Python reticulatus

Ever increasing in popularity, Reticulated pythons have some incredible color and pattern variations. They have a bad reputation when it comes to their temperament, but is greatly not deserved. Most captive born & raised "Retics" are tame and can make a good and rewarding pet if you are prepared for their growth, size and required care. Like Burmese Pythons, males are smaller than females.

- Average Size: 12 - 25 ft. in length (*Reticulated pythons are NOT recommended for novice keepers.*)
- Life Span: 25 + years with proper care.
- Diet: Thawed, appropriate sized frozen rodents, warmed to room temperature. Large adults may require larger prey such as guinea pigs, rabbits, chickens or piglets.
- Feeding: Feed most adult snakes every two weeks, or as needed; juveniles once or twice a week. Feed in a separate enclosure so that your snake does not associate your hand or the habitat being opened with feeding or use the tap training technique. Use caution when feeding Reticulated Pythons as they can be aggressive during feeding. **If feeding your snake live prey, never leave them unattended. Live prey can injure the snake, sometimes fatally.**
- Housing:
- Size: Appropriate size and shape habitat to accommodate normal behaviors and exercise.
 - Substrate: Aspen shavings, mulch-type commercial material; unbleached paper towels, newspaper.
 - Habitat: Adults require a long & large enclosure, a minimum of half the body length of the snake.
 - Temperature: Temperature gradient should be 80 – 92F; recommend radiant heat; use an incandescent light or ceramic heat emitter as primary heat source. Humidity should be between 60-70%.
 - Lighting: Snakes need a photo period light cycle; provide 8-12 hours of light daily; do not leave white light on at all times; to view snakes at night, use a black or infrared light.
 - Water: Provide a water bowl of chlorine-free water large enough for the snake to soak in.
- Habitat Care: Clean out water dish and replace water dish daily; remove any feces daily, or food if not eaten. Thoroughly clean the tank at least once a week; set snake aside in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a reptile habitat cleaner or 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell if bleach if used; dry the tank and furnishings; add clean substrate.
- Behavior: As snake gets ready to shed, eyes will turn milky blue over the course of a few days and body color will start to dull and develop a whitish sheen. Will remain quiet in the hiding area or coiled up for long periods of time; should display an alert demeanor when disturbed. Will search habitat when hungry. Reticulated Pythons are known to hiss from time to time, this does not always mean they are upset. Learn to read your snakes moods. Use caution with Reticulated Pythons as they are very strong.
- Hygiene: Snakes will regularly shed their skin; if old pieces of skin remain after shedding, mist the snake and gently rub off the old skin. Always wash your hands before and after handling your snake or habitat contents to help prevent Salmonella and other diseases.
- Healthy Signs: Active & alert, clear eyes, healthy skin, eats regularly, regular shedding of skin, shed skin in one complete piece.
- Health Issues:
- Ticks & Mites: Parasites on skin, can transmit diseases.
Proposed Action: Thoroughly clean the enclosure, use a safe reptile mite treatment or see veterinarian.
 - Dermatitis: Blisters; rapid shedding cause by an unclean habitat or one that is too cold or damp.
Proposed Action: Clean the habitat and lower humidity. Consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
 - Respiratory Disease: Labored breathing, mucus in mouth/nostrils, caused by a habitat that is too cold or damp.
Proposed Action: Keep snake warm and dry. Consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
 - Stomatitis: White, cheesy substance in the mouth; loss of teeth and appetite.
Proposed Action: If left untreated, can be fatal. Consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
- Red Flags: Unusually frequent or infrequent shedding, Lethargic or reluctant to eat; weight loss, abnormal feces, difficulty shedding, vomiting, bumps or spots on skin, labored breathing, white, cheesy substance in mouth.
- Note: *The information on our care sheets was collected from various sources as well as our own experiences. These care sheets are guidelines only, not a substitute for veterinary care and should not be used as such. If you need additional information, there are also multiple reptile forums online. If ever in doubt, always consult your exotic reptile veterinarian.*