

| OVERVIEW | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|------------|---------|----------|--------|
| <p>The blood pythons of Southeast Asia are moderately-sized heavy bodied terrestrial boids with beautiful coloration. Blood pythons require moderately warm temperatures and HIGH HUMIDITY. They inhabit fairly swampy areas where they sit buried in damp leaf litter and much and will not tolerate dryness. A humid retreat (hidebox with damp moss) is good, but they will prefer to burrow in two or three inches of substrate that retains a bit of moisture (e.g., cypress mulch mixed with peat moss and covered with leaf litter). Provide several inches of moist mulch as substrate. Daily cage misting is essential to maintaining sufficient humidity.</p> | | | | | | |
| ENVIRONMENT | | | | | | |
| Conditions » | Day Temp | 78-88°F | Night Temp | 76-82°F | Humidity | 75-90% |
| Heat Source » | Belly heat; thermostat-controlled undertank heat mat at one end of enclosure | | | | | |
| HOUSING | | <p>Blood pythons should be housed individually in secure enclosures. Snakes are escape artists and any housing must prevent even the smallest opportunity for the snake to exit. Clear plastic shoe and sweater boxes are popular for hatchlings, and small plastic terrariums may also be used. An aquarium will also work for hatchlings and juveniles, but a larger reptile cage or large blanket box with several square feet of floor space is required for an adult.</p> <p>Heat is best provided using a heat tape or mat beneath one end of the enclosure. It should be situated to provide a thermal gradient from the warmer heated end of the housing to the cooler end. Heat sources should always be controlled with a thermostat to prevent overheating.</p> <p>A 2-3" depth of substrate like cypress mulch (Zoo Med Forest Floor) is essential for maintaining the necessary high relative humidity and allowing for the blood python's natural burrowing behavior. Use a greater depth for large snakes. A hide box filled with damp sphagnum (orchid) moss can be used as well, but it is best to provide deep semi-moist substrate and cover it with some oak or magnolia leaves. Fresh water should be available at all times. KEEP HUMIDITY HIGH!</p> | | | | |
| DIET | | <p>Blood pythons are rodent eaters. Our big babies are eating live large fuzzy or hopper mice and prey size should be similar in diameter to the snake's head. Adults will eat small rats. Most blood pythons will readily switch to feeding on thawed-frozen rodents offered from rubber-tipped forceps.</p> | | | | |