

Kingsnake



OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Lampropeltis* spp.
- Origin: North America
- Ease of Care: Beginner
- Potential Adult Size: 4ft
- Life Span: 20 years
- Behaviour: Crepuscular
- Diet: Carnivore
- Handling: Beginner

TOP TIPS

- ✓ After feeding, let your snake digest its meal for 48/72 hours before any handling.
- ✓ If your snake refuses to feed, try offering a smaller or larger food item.
- ✓ A Kingsnake will normally refuse its food when it is about to shed, so wait until the snake has fully shed before offering food.
- ✓ A bad shed is normally a sign of something wrong in the snake's environment.
- ✓ If your snake has a bad shed, try soaking it in lukewarm water and removing any left-over skin.
- ✓ Make sure any Vivarium vents are facing inward. This way, they can't be pushed out allowing the snake to escape.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

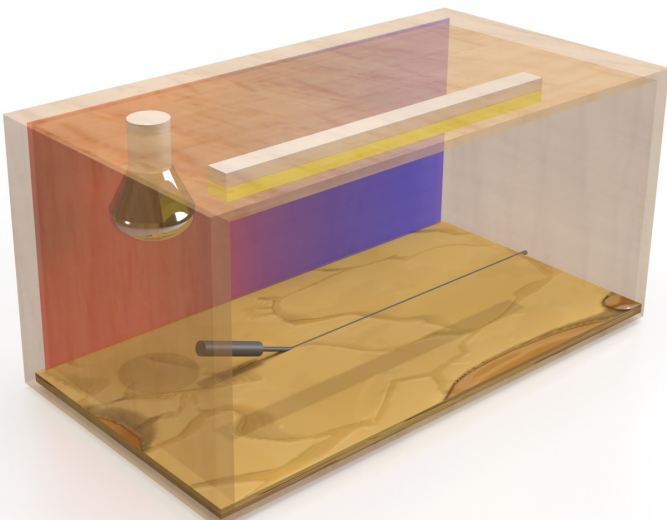


- Housing: Terrainium or Vivarium
- Heating: Heat Mat, Heat Bulb (depending on setup size)
- Thermostat: Mat Stat / Dimming Thermostat (depending on if baby or juvenile/adult setup)
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Orchid Bark (HSO10M) or Arcadia EarthMix Arid (RAREA10)

ENVIRONMENT



Terrestrial Vivarium Setup



Enclosure Readings

Background Temp: 23°C-25°C (74°F-77°F)

Hot Spot: 30°C-31°C (86°F-88°F)

Night-Time Temp: 20°C-23°C (68°F-74°F)

Heating

Kingsnakes are a crepuscular species and require a suitable light and heat gradient in the enclosure to simulate a complete 24-hour period.

The HabiStat Snake Accessory Kit (HSSAK) provides all the light, heat, and safety elements for the enclosure in one handy kit.

Use the Arcadia Pro Ceramic Lamp Holder & Bracket (RADCHP) with the HabiStat Heat Bulb (HBB100) and the HabiStat Heater Guard (HHG24) protecting the bulb, all running through the HabiStat Dimming Thermostat (HTDW).

HOUSING



A relevant sized Terrainium or Vivarium offer the ideal housing solutions for a Kingsnake dependant on size/age.

Baby Kingsnake:

HabiStat Tall Terrainium, 36 x 15 x 8" (HT36T)

Juvenile/Adult Kingsnake:

HabiStat Standard Vivarium, 36 x 18 x 18" (HV36)

HabiStat Standard Vivarium, 48 x 24 x 24" (HV4824)

Heating a Terrainium

To replicate these conditions in a Terrainium, we recommend using a HabiStat Heat Mat (HHM11) that is thermostatically controlled as a heat source. The heat mat should be inserted into the glass holder located in the base of the Terrainium to ensure that the Kingsnake does not come directly into contact with it.

The Heat Mat should be used in conjunction with the HabiStat Heat Mat thermostat (HTMW1).

Heat Mat thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the snake. Carefully place the substrate on top.

Check temperatures and humidity regularly with a reliable thermometer and hygrometer.

DIET & WATER



Ensure the Snake has a varied diet, with a mixture of thawed Rodents and Poultry.

Hatchling - Every 5-7 days

Juvenile - Every 7-10 days

Adult - Every 14-21 days

In general, we would suggest a feeder that is approximately the size (in width) of the largest part of the snake. If the food is too big then it could cause regurgitation and stress to the snake.

Always provide a source of fresh water.

The HabiStat Sandstone Water Dish (HRSSCL) will provide a safe and sturdy option.

To maintain and regulate humidity within the enclosure, mist as required.

Lighting

Fit the Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit 6% (RARTP39F), or alternatively the Arcadia LumenIZE Pro T5 UVB Kit 6% (RARLZ39F) to the inside roof of the Vivarium. Ensure that it is fitted correctly and within the manufactures recommended distances, providing a UVI of 2-3.

Substrates and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your Terrainium or vivarium, but we recommend the following as a guide:

A dry and non-dusty substrate such as Habistat Orchid Bark (HSO10M) & Arcadia EarthMix Arid (RAREA10), that is easy to spot clean.

Wood and branches for hiding under, crawling on and to help with shedding.

Artificial or live plants for decoration and to provide darker areas for the Kingsnake to hide away.

Hide to allow the snake to hide away if it chooses to and give it an area to feel safe and secure.

SUPPLEMENTATION



The Kingsnake does not require additional supplementation if their diet is kept varied.

Although using Arcadia Shed Support (RAREPSS30) once a month on the chosen rodent can be beneficial in aiding their natural shedding process by supplying essential vitamins and minerals.

HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Kingsnake healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	Change old water for fresh water	Spot clean	Check vents on enclosure are not blocked and allow air to pass through freely
Weekly	Disinfect water bowl or dish	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build-up and remove any dirty bedding	Wipe down glass and walls with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Full substrate change	Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling or feeding your Kingsnake, their food, enclosure and any other equipment using HabiStat Anti-Bac Spray (HABS) for any surface, and HabiStat Hand Sanitiser (HABG) for hand hygiene.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



- A Kingsnake will shed its skin every so often, depending on how big the snake is - and how quickly its growing.
- As a rule, a young snake will shed every 3 to 6 weeks, and an older snake every 2 to 6 months.
- The best way to tell that your Kingsnake is going to shed its skin is to look at its general colour and eyes.
- The Kingsnake will appear duller than normal and may have a washed out look. This will become more obvious as the Kingsnake nears shedding its skin.
- The snake's eyes will appear clouded at first and will eventually turn a bluey/grey colour. Normal colouration will return once the Kingsnake has shed its skin.

DATA MONITORING



Complete this Sheet at the same time every day e.g. 12pm

	Hotspot Temp 30°C-31°C (86°F-88°F)	Background Temp 23°C-25°C (74°F-77°F)	Humidity 70%-80%	UVI 2-3	Night Time Temp 20°C-23°C (68°F-74°F)	Feeding
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wednesday						
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						
Sunday						