

# 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

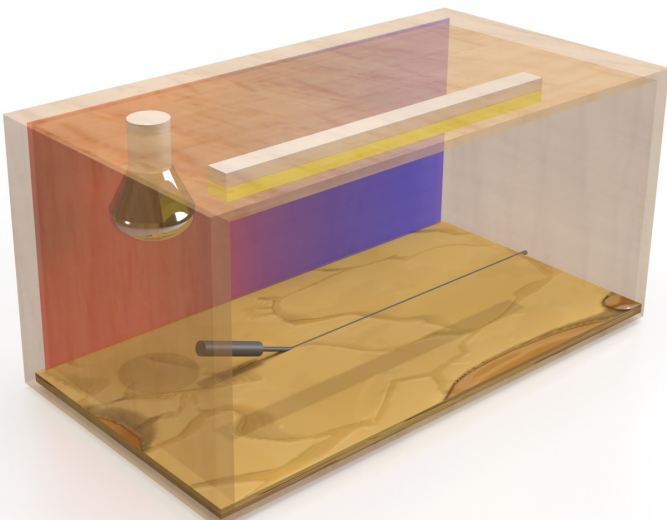


- Housing: Terrainium or Vivarium
- Heating: Heat Mat, Heat Bulb (depending on setup size)
- Thermostat: Mat Stat / Dimming Thermostat (depending on if baby or juvenile/adult setup)
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Orchid Bark (HSO10M) or Arcadia EarthMix Arid (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. Insert the probe through the back of the Terrainium via the rubber grommet and tape directly onto the glass panel above the heat mat. The probe cable should be taped 2-5cm (1-2") back from the actual probe sensor to allow for a correct temperature reading and avoid it becoming dislodged. 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.



# 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						