

Bull Snake



OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Pituophis catenifer sayi*
- Origin: North and Central America
- Ease of Care: Intermediate
- Potential Adult Size: 4ft-6ft on average
- Life Span: Upwards of 30 years
- Behaviour: Diurnal
- Diet: Defrost Rodents and Poultry
- Handling: Intermediate

TOP TIPS

- ✓ Allow for a few inches of substrate to enable the species to burrow
- ✓ Provide a sturdy water-bowl due to the burrowing nature of the species

HOUSING

Hatchling/Juvenile:

HabiStat Hatchling Snake Starter Kit (HSSK)

HabiStat Terrainium (HT24)

Adult:

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

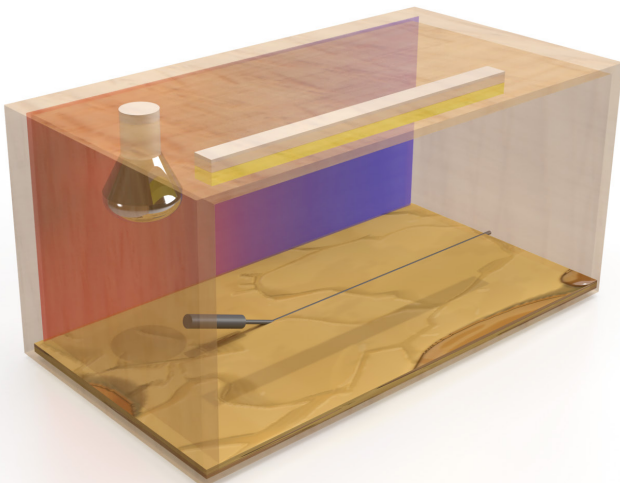
HabiStat Standard Vivarium 60 x 24 x 24" (HV6024)

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Housing: Vivarium
- Heating: Heat Bulb
- Thermostat: Dimming Thermostat
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Jungle Bio, HabiStat Coir Block, Arcadia EarthMix Arid
- Water: Water Bowl

ENVIRONMENT

Terrestrial Vivarium Setup



Enclosure Readings

- Background Temp: 21°C-26°C (69°F-79°F)
- Hot Spot: 30°C (86°F)
- Night-Time Temp: 18°C-21°C (64°F-69°F)
- Humidity: 50%-60%
- UVI: 2-3

Heating

Bull Snakes are diurnal animals and require a suitable light and heat gradient in their vivarium.

Provide a hot area towards one side of the enclosure using an overhead heat source to offer a heat gradient.

Use an Arcadia Pro Ceramic Lamp Holder & Bracket (RADCHP) with a HabiStat Heat Bulb (HBB100) running in conjunction with a HabiStat Dimming Thermostat (HTDW).

Dimming 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 animal.

Maintain night-time temperatures using a HabiStat Ceramic (HBC60) running in conjunction with a HabiStat Pulse Stat (HTPW) if they are dropping below the recommended night-time heat levels.

A Spotlight Guard should be used to surround the heat bulb to prevent the animal coming into direct contact with the heat source.

Check temperatures regularly, using a reliable dual thermometer and hygrometer to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

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 an 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. This will maintain required UVB levels.

Ensure that it is fitted correctly and within the manufacturer's recommended distances providing a UVI of 2-3.

Substrate and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your enclosure, but we recommend the following as examples -

- HabiStat Jungle Bio (HSJB10), HabiStat Coir Block (HSCB), or Arcadia EarthMix Arid (RAREA10)
- Wood/branches/vines for climbing, hiding, and sleeping under
- Live or artificial plant decoration will provide darker areas for the Bull Snake to use as shelter

SUPPLEMENTATION

Bull Snakes do 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- When choosing your substrate, bear in mind that this species of Snake likes to dig and burrow.
- A sturdy water bowl is essential, so it doesn't get knocked over when the Snake is burrowing.

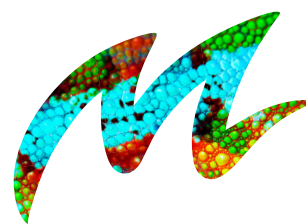
HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your animal 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 to allow any dirty bedding to be removed	Wipe down glass and walls with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Take out old substrate and replace with new substrate	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 your Bull Snake, their food, enclosure, and any other equipment using HabiStat Anti-Bac Spray (HABS) for any surface, and HabiStat Hand Sanitiser (HABG) for hand hygiene.



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HabiStat



DATA MONITORING



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

	Hotspot Temp 30°C (86°F)	Background Temp 21°C-26°C (69°F-79°F)	Humidity 50%-60%	UVI 2-3	Night Time Temp 18°C-21°C (64°F-69°F)	Feeding
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wednesday						
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						
Sunday						