

Hognose Snake

Hognoses are colubrid snakes which are becoming increasingly popular around the globe. These snakes are recognised by their upturned snout which is used for digging and burrowing. Their life span is up to 18 years. There are many different colourations of hognose snakes. These snakes are best housed alone as company can be stressful. These snakes are mildly venomous and they are rear fanged. Low night time temperatures can cause snakes to hibernate.

Please check species availability.



Glossary

Reptile - A cold-blooded vertebrate with scaly skin.

Amphibian - A cold-blooded vertebrate that begins life as an aquatic animal and grows into a terrestrial adult with lungs.

Terrestrial - A ground dwelling animal.

Arboreal - An animal that lives in trees.

Diurnal - Awake in the day.

Nocturnal- Awake during the night.

UVB - Ultraviolet radiation.

Colubrid - A family of snakes.

Hybrid - Offspring from animals of different species.

Morph - Colourations created due to genetics.

Musk - Unpleasant odour released when an animal is stressed or feels threatened.

Live plants are only available on special order

If you require any further information, please ask our pet care advisors who will be very happy to help.

Opening Times

Monday - Saturday: 9am - 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am - 4pm

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Hognose Snake



Care & Advice Sheet

Inspiration for your Home & Garden

Size & Housing

These snakes are quite small. Females will grow just short of 3ft. Males can reach anywhere between 14 to 24 inches. They are best housed in wooden vivariums as they maintain the heat better than glass terrariums. We recommend:

2ft x 1.5ft x 1.5ft – Minimum for 1 Adult



Handling

Hognose snakes can appear to be feisty and more aggressive than they actually are. They move quickly so ensure you have support of its body. They often hiss as a warning. They are mildly venomous so bites can be quite serious if you have a reaction to the venom. If bitten, do not pull the snake off of you as this can damage their teeth. Run the snake under cold water and it should let go.

Substrate & Furnishings

Different substrates can be used for these snakes. For ease of cleaning, newspaper or paper towels can be used but must be changed when soiled. Other substrates include beech chips, corn cob granules or aspen which all allow the snake to burrow.

There should be plenty of places for the snake to hide. Provide hides (such as caves) in at least both sides of the enclosure so they have a hot and a cold hide to allow the snake to regulate their body temperature. With lots of hides in the enclosure the snake is likely to feel more secure. They can be very active snakes but spend their time on the ground. Artificial plants can be used for decoration. Spot pick the enclosure daily and full clean once or twice a month using a reptile specific disinfectant.

Lighting & Temperature

Provide UVB (any up to 10%) to create a daytime cycle of 10–12 hours. This is best controlled by a timer. They require a basking area with a temperature around 32°C – this is best achieved by using a heat bulb, ceramic heat emitter with a guard controlled by a thermostat at all times. There should be a temperature gradient across the enclosure with a cool end dropping to 25°C minimal. The temperature can also drop a further few degrees at night.

Food & Water

Fresh water should be provided daily. Humidity should be kept very low and if the enclosure looks moist, then remove the water for a day or two. These snakes should be fed weekly and they may not feed if they are due to shed. With hognoses, it is best to not offer food much larger than the width of its head. Offer a variety of:

- Mice
- Rats

Some snakes may have a preference over the food they are offered including type and colour. Be aware that rats are much fatter than mice so it is essential to keep an eye on the overall body condition of your snake. They may go off of their food in colder months.

Defrost the food item for a few hours before feeding and use warm water to warm the rodent up if needed. Tongs should be used to feed the snake as they may miss the food. This is the main chance to be bitten.

Do not handle the snake for 24–48 hours after feeding as this can cause the snake to regurgitate the food.