

Prehistoric Pets Care Sheet

Green Tree Pythons (*Morelia viridis*)

General Information

Green Tree pythons are among the most beautiful snakes in the world. These snakes inhabit the rainforests of Northern Australia, New Guinea, and some of the surrounding islands. There are several races of Green Tree pythons and these are: Aru Island, Biak Island, Cape York or Merauke, and the mainland forms of New Guinea. Green Tree pythons are usually found in trees, but occasional venture

down to the forest floor. This snake is most active at night, when it feeds on rodents and other small mammals. As babies Green Tree pythons are usually colored red, maroon, brown, or yellow. This color changes as the animal matures until it reaches its adult coloration. Some Green Tree pythons take several years before this transformation is complete. Adult pythons have a wide range of coloration and there are many high end morphs such as: High Yellow, Blue, Calico, Mite Phase, Mustard, High White, and even Albino.



Temperature

Green Tree pythons should be maintained between 84-88 degrees during the day. Nighttime temperatures need to range between 75-80 degrees. Green Tree pythons come from a tropical environment and humidity is important for proper health. You should mist the cage once a day to increase humidity and condensation should be present on the glass. Do not mist your cage to the point that the bedding is soaking wet, your cage should start to dry by the next scheduled misting. Green Tree pythons should have a day and night cycle of 12 hours light and 12 hours dark.

Housing

Baby Green Tree pythons can be kept in 10-29 gallon or larger terrariums. Ideally, as the snake matures, the more room you want to provide. Wood cages are an excellent choice to house Green Tree pythons and a pair of adults can be housed comfortably in a 4 x 2 x 2 cage. The cage needs to be setup so there are multiple branches for the python to perch. When choosing a cage, always make sure there is some type of ventilation. However, excessive ventilation will dry the cage out too quickly.

Bedding

Our recommendation for bedding is bark, coconut bark, or cypress mulch. These types of beddings hold moisture very well and duplicate their natural environment. It is possible for a snake to accidentally ingest its bedding and cause some type of impaction in the intestines. We feel that this type of impaction is rare and we have never personally encountered this problem.

Food

Green Tree pythons feed on pinkie or fuzzy mice as babies and juveniles. As your snake grows it will soon move up to adult mice and small rats. We recommend that you feed baby and juvenile Green Tree pythons 1-2 times per week. Adult pythons can be fed once every 7-10 days to maintain proper body weight. Like most snakes, Green Tree pythons typically will not eat when they are preparing to shed. After your snake has shed you can return to your normal feeding regiment. If your snake doesn't eat make sure you remove the rodent from the cage. Rodents can bite snakes when they are hungry and can injure or kill your snake.

Cleaning and Handling

The terrarium should be cleaned as necessary. Any fecal matter should be cleaned out several times a week. The bedding should be completely changed once a month and fresh clean water should be provided at all times. The inside of the terrarium can be cleaned out with an appropriate reptile cage cleaner, we recommend Natural Chemistry's Healthy Habitat. Baby Green Tree pythons are very delicate and should be handled as little as possible. Juveniles and adults will tolerate some handling and disposition will differ between snakes. Always wash your hands before and after handling them.

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