



Video transcript

Python handling

Inside this bag here I have an adult Stimson's Python. I'm transferring it in a soft breathable bag, that's a good way to transfer pythons that way they feel secure, they're hidden and they're not going to bang around as much. So, I'll get the Stimson's Python out, he's quite a friendly snake this one. When getting him out first it's important just to see where the head is and then lift the body gently underneath and not near the head. So, when handling a snake the important thing is to be gentle and support its body weight. As you support the body weight of the animal, it feels comfortable and it becomes less and less stressed. Also important when handling a snake it's important not to handle mice beforehand because the only time I guess a friendly snake might lash out and bite unless it's stressed is if it can smell the scent of mice on your hands. According to the snake his main sense organs are the tongue which he's flicking out to pick up scent and also his heat sensing pits. He has got vision, he can see particularly if objects are moving but it's not his primary organ. So, by flicking out that tongue if your hand smells like a mouse, tastes like a mouse and is warm like a mouse he might think it's mice and you might get an accidental bite. But otherwise if you support their body weight and you don't handle any mice beforehand you should be quite alright. The individual temperament of every snake can be quite different. Some snakes might be naturally a bit more nervous. Other snakes might be a lot more docile and friendly. Sometimes bites may occur. What to expect if you cop a bite from one of these snakes. If it's a bite because he's a little bit stressed or a little bit scared, it's typically a bite and release. He'll quickly bite, release. It might bleed a little bit. It looks a lot worse than it is. And typically just treat as like if you cut your finger, you'll be quite alright. The only time a snake might bite and hang on as if it smells mouse or food on your hands and it will bite and wrap up thinking it's a mouse and then you may have a little bit more time trying to unravel the snake and enticing him to let go. But, typically if it's stressed it will just bite and release. With a little bit of handling bites might not occur. Bites are more common in juvenile snakes because as a hatchling python they're only quite small and everything's a predator to that animal. Whereas as they grow older and with frequent handling like in captive snakes, if you can purchase one that's been handled all its life they do become quite amiable to handling, just like the one I'm holding. Typically lifting a snake out of the enclosure gentle handling like this can easily occur every day without any stress. But if it was to be passed around from person to person I'd limit that to more kind of once a week or so.