



## Video transcript

### Python housing

Some of the more important aspects of keeping a small python in captivity in their enclosure includes the heating. One of the important facts of the heating is that you want to have an enclosure that varies from around twenty five degrees at the cool end to around thirty degrees Celsius at the warm end with a basking area or a warm spot where they can get up to around thirty five degrees Celsius and that can be provided in a couple of ways. One, it can be through a basking spot, so it can be something like a red globe above it can give heat down to a small basking spot for the snake to elevate its body temperature. Or alternatively, for a snake you can have a heated area under the enclosure whether it be a heat mat or a heat cord under the substrate that elevates the temperature of that ground. For some of these small pythons that can be more natural because small pythons are mostly terrestrial and they're nocturnal, they come out at night time when there's not a large basking light from above and they do sit on warm surfaces. So, that can be a more of a natural thing for a really small python. Within the enclosure in terms of furnishings it's important to have somewhere for the snake to hide. That can be provided through either a rock outcrop area, a hollow log like the one in the enclosure beside me or even a hide box of some sort. These days you can purchase from a number of pet shops all sorts of naturalistic looking hide boxes that you can use inside your enclosure. And you can even set one of those up in the warm end of the enclosure and one in the cool end of the enclosure and that would be ideal for the snake to have the choice of what temperature to hide at. A number of important factors of the enclosure is also the water bowl. Make sure it's always got fresh water available within the enclosure at any given time. In terms of the size of the enclosure for a small python like these ones that only get to around maybe the one to one and half metres maximum mark an enclosure of about I guess four foot length, about one to one point two metres in length by about maybe forty to fifty, sixty centimetres in width would be I guess a good size enclosure for one of these animals. The enclosure I'm next to here is quite ideal. It's certainly got a large enough ground space for the python of this size to move around quite freely. It's quite spacious vertically. For a small python like this you would not need such a height on the enclosure. One of the reasons for that is because they're mostly found down near the ground, they don't use that space too much. So, having an enclosure half this size would even be ideal. And the other reason why half the size enclosure might be ideal on some occasions too it's more efficient to heat that size enclosure rather than trying to heat this large enclosure. When cleaning an enclosure of a python there is not a lot of cleaning involved. One of the important things is to make sure there's always fresh water available for the snake to drink. In terms of cleaning up when it defecates they'll typically only defecate as often as they feed. And for a snake that only feeds once or twice a fortnight you only have to clean up its faecal matter once or twice a fortnight as well. Pythons will also produce something called Uric or Uric acid, Uric paste and that's typically a white excreted substance that comes out of a snake. And same as when it defecates, it's simply a matter of obtaining a spoon or a set of gloves and just spot cleaning pulling that excreted matter out and disposing of it. The substrate of the enclosure should probably be replaced once every few months. As often as once every six months would be ideal for a snake like this. Even though you're spot cleaning every week it's ideal just to get rid of that, give it a good disinfection with something like F10 veterinary disinfectant or Virkon just to make sure there's no bacteria loads building up in your enclosure and then replace the substrate.