



Video transcript

Python health

When looking at the health of a python there's a number of important things to look for especially when obtaining your first snake. Whether you obtain it as a juvenile or as an adult is one important component. If you're obtaining your snake as a juvenile the most important thing to make sure that it is feeding quite well. Usually you should never obtain a young snake that's not had at least a good three or four feeds on its own accord before obtaining that snake because sometimes juvenile snakes can be quite hard to get going particularly as hatchlings. So, once they get feeding from the breeder whoever's supplying the snake make sure it's feeding quite well and you've got a good feeding history. That's one of the most important things to look for. When looking at the snake visually one of the important things to look for is that it doesn't have excess sloughiness, skin stuck to its back. Snakes shed their skin fairly frequently. Juveniles shed their skin up to once a month. Adults shed their skin three or four times a year. An important thing to make sure it hasn't got dry bits of skin stuck all over its back because that can indicate it either hasn't been kept in humid enough conditions or there could be something wrong with it like a mite infestation or something like that, a parasite problem, you're not sure about by this by just looking at the snake. Another important thing to look for when looking at the snake is to make sure there's no bubbles sitting around its nose. And when it's flicking its forked tongue that tongue is quite forked. These are signs of a respiratory problem and that's one of the more common health problems you see in reptiles particularly those that aren't kept warm enough. So, one of the things to look for is you'll hear a wet, wheezy hissing. You might see bubbles coming from the nose or the tongue might not be properly forking. And usually by that stage it's an advanced respiratory problem and definitely best not to obtain that animal. That's certainly one of the things to look for. If you see these problems in your snake that you've had whether it be in your classroom or wherever else for quite a while and you start to see these symptoms they're indicative of a respiratory infection and it's best to get veterinary assistance as soon as possible because chances are it might need to be treated by antibiotics and the reason that caused that respiratory infection will need to be addressed and usually it's because the enclosure is not warm enough. It can either be the enclosure's not warm enough, they're not getting access to a warm enough basking spot or alternatively the enclosure might be too damp or too moist or too humid particularly for something like a Stimson's Python which comes from a more arid region. And if it's too wet in the enclosure that can bring on a respiration infection as well.