



MILK SNAKE

CARE GUIDE

THE NEW BEGINNING WAY

Milksnake Care Guide

Milksnakes are captivating and relatively easy-to-care-for reptiles, making them an excellent choice for both beginner and experienced snake enthusiasts. This guide will walk you through the essential aspects of milksnake care to ensure your scaly friend thrives in its new home.

Choosing the Right Milksnake

Milksnakes come in a variety of colors and patterns, with the most common being the Eastern, Honduran, and Pueblan varieties. When choosing a milksnake, consider the following:

- **Size:** Milksnakes can range from 24 to 60 inches in length. Ensure you have enough space to accommodate the snake as it grows.
- **Health:** Select a snake with clear eyes, smooth scales, and a healthy appetite. Avoid snakes with visible injuries or signs of illness.

Housing

Enclosure

- **Size:** A 20-gallon tank is suitable for young milksnakes. As they mature, upgrade to a 40-gallon tank or larger.
- **Material:** Glass or plastic enclosures work well. Ensure the enclosure is escape-proof with a secure lid.

Substrate

- **Options:** Aspen shavings, cypress mulch, or reptile carpet are ideal. Avoid cedar or pine, which can be harmful.
- **Depth:** Provide a 2-3 inch layer to allow for burrowing.

Decor

- **Hides:** Offer at least two hides, one on the warm side and one on the cool side of the enclosure.
- **Climbing:** Include branches or rocks for climbing and exploration.
- **Water Dish:** Provide a shallow dish large enough for soaking, and ensure fresh water is available at all times.

Temperature and Humidity

- **Temperature Gradient:** Maintain a gradient from 75°F on the cool side to 85°F on the warm side. Use heat lamps or under-tank heaters to achieve this.
- **Humidity:** Keep humidity levels between 40-60%. Mist the enclosure lightly if needed.

Lighting

- While milksnakes do not require UVB lighting, providing a day-night cycle with a regular light can help regulate their natural behaviors. Aim for 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness.

Feeding

- **Diet:** Feed your milksnake appropriately-sized rodents, such as mice or small rats. Pre-killed prey is safer and recommended.
- **Frequency:** Young snakes should be fed every 5-7 days, while adults can be fed every 7-14 days.
- **Supplements:** Generally, milksnakes do not require dietary supplements, but consult a veterinarian if you have concerns.

Handling

- **Approach:** Handle your milksnake gently and confidently. Allow time for it to acclimate to your presence.
- **Frequency:** Regular handling helps your snake become accustomed to human interaction, but avoid handling immediately after feeding.

Health Monitoring

- **Signs of Health:** A healthy milksnake is active, has clear eyes, smooth scales, and regularly sheds its skin.
- **Common Issues:** Watch for respiratory infections, mites, or signs of stress.
- **Veterinary Care:** Regular check-ups with a reptile veterinarian ensure your snake's well-being.

By following this comprehensive guide, you can create a nurturing environment for your milksnake, ensuring it leads a healthy and fulfilling life in your care. Enjoy the fascinating journey of sharing your life with this beautiful reptile!

