

# CREATURE CARE SHEET

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## King Snake

*Lampropeltis getula*

including *L.g. californiae* black & white

Before you read this Care Sheet remember that it is meant only as a general guide to the requirements and maintenance of this species. You should seek out good information regarding the specifics of their husbandry.

### Distribution:

Many different subspecies found throughout the United States and into Mexico.

### Habitat:

Kingsnakes occur in a wide variety of habitats including: wood lots, prairies, fields, oak scrub lands, and semi-arid regions.

### Adult Size:

The Kingsnake is a medium sized snake with a very slender build. Hatchlings are typically between 23 and 36 cm, while adults range in length from 76 cm - 183 cm (2.5-6 feet).

### Temperament:

Young Kingsnakes - like most small snakes - are highly sensitive to potential threats. They will typically rattle their tails and strike defensively when they feel threatened; however, with very little effort they quickly become accustomed to being handled. Most adults rarely bite and are easy to handle.

### Longevity:

This species lives to be between 10 and 15 years old in captivity.

### Captive Care:

Rating: 1 - Due to this animals good nature, feeding habits, adult size, and availability as domestically bred stock it is an excellent starter snake.

### Diet:

Hatchlings and juveniles - pink/ fuzzy mice, hopper mice, and pink/fuzzy rats every 4-7 days; Adults - large rodents such as rats every 9-14 days.

### Temperature:

25C to 30C (75-85F)

### Space:

An adult King Snake can be housed a 35 gallon terrarium; however, young snakes are better off housed in smaller 10 to 15 gallon terraria until they reach a 60 - 70 cm in length.

### Special Requirements:

Kingsnakes naturally feed on other snakes; therefore, these animals must be housed individually. These snakes are docile, eat readily, and are long lived which makes them hardy animals ideally suited for beginners.; however, hatchlings should be left for one to two months

**Cheshire Waterlife & Falconry Centre**

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without any handling to make sure they get on a good feeding schedule. Most people make the mistake of handling their animal too soon and they end up with a very stressed snake that refuses to eat. For the first few months, the contact you should have with your snake should be for feeding, cleaning, and changing water only.