

CREATURE CARE SHEET

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Milk Snake

Lampropeltis triangulum,

L.t.annulatum = Mexican Milk Snake

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 of milk snakes are found from southern Canada, throughout the United States and Mexico and into northern South America.

Habitat:

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

Adult Size:

Milk snakes are medium sized snakes. Hatchlings are typically between 23 and 36 cm, while adults range in length from 76 cm - 183 cm (2.5-6 feet).

Temperament:

This species is a docile and shy snake. They rarely attempt to bite. Milk snakes live 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 adult mice or small rats every 9-14 days.

Temperature:

25 to 30C (75-85F)

Space:

An adult milk snake can be housed in 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:

Milk snakes 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 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.

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