

Grey-banded Kingsnake Caresheet

Background Information

Grey-banded Kingsnakes are a colubrid snake native to the Trans-Pecos desert in Western Texas and Southern Mexico. Growing up to 4ft long, it is considered a moderate sized snake. However, the average tends to be about 3ft, females often growing slightly larger than males. Due to its secretive nature and the harsh environment it originates from, the rarity of this species in the wild have made herpetologists consider it endangered in some areas. With nice patternings and a docile nature compared to other kingsnakes, bites are not common allowing this species to be a nice starter as well as one for a collection.

Level of Experience	Beginner
Habitat	Desert shrubland, rocky outcrops
Life Span	15 years on average
Active Time of Day	Nocturnal
Natural Prey	Rodents and Lizards
Terrestrial / Semi Arboreal / Arboreal / Aquatic / Fossorial	Fossorial
Reproduction	Mate: Spring Lay: Summer
Clutch Size	2 – 13 eggs
Breeding Weights / Length / Age	Males: 160g+ / 3ft / 2 years of age Females: 300g+ / 3ft / 3 years of age
Brumation Time	2 months
Brumation Temperature	10 – 12 'C
Incubation Time	2 months
Incubation Temperature	27 – 30 'C

There are 6 types of colourations you can find in the wild:

Blairs - Alterna - Speckled - Anerythristic - Hypomelanistic - Leucistic

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Captive Requirements and Welfare

Kingsnakes are known to be ophiophagus (meaning “snake-eating”) therefore housing them singly is mandatory to avoid any complications. In the wild this species burrows through the majority of the day to escape the heat so a substrate should be given to accommodate this behaviour.

Vivarium size	30x30x30cm for hatchling 3ft x 1.5ft x 1.5ft for adult
Daytime Temperature (cool – warm)	22 – 33 ‘C
Nighttime Temperature	18 – 24 ‘C
Heating Equipment (on timers)	Spot bulb during day, heat mat at night
Substrate	Most Natural: Beige LR Desert Bedding Alternatives: Beech Chip or Aspen
Hides	2 at minimum: one on each side a 3 rd moss hide during shedding would be beneficial
Decor	Branches and fake plants allow the opportunity to climb and aids shedding
Water	Fresh water topped up when needed clean out water bowl every few days to prevent slime build up
Food (Feeding)	Pinkies for hatchlings then increase the size as they grow. Always take the snake out and feed in a separate box to prevent substrate being eaten.
Cleaning	Spot pick weekly, full clean monthly