

Western Hognose Caresheet

Background Information

The Western Hognose is a small stocky colubrid snake from America. Its geographical range is quite broad, being commonly found from Texas as far northwestern as Oklahoma and Kansas to southwestern Manitoba and the prairies of Illinois. It's easy to tell genders apart as females get double the size and much stockier than males. A fully grown male can grow up to 18 inches where as a fully grown female can reach lengths of 36 inches (3ft). They are very placid animals once picked up - they do tend to put on a puffy, hissy display to try and unnerve you but it is all bark and no bite. They may occasionally strike but don't actually open their mouths, it's just another bluff and this is a rare occurrence. Over time when they get older they tend to stop all the acting and become very docile in every way. Hognoses are a rear fanged species with slight venom but bites are so rare that it's never a thing to worry about. The cytotoxic venom is only bee sting potency however people with bee sting allergies may react worse to the venom.

Level of Experience	Novice
Habitat	Rocky outcrops, semi arid regions, grasslands and prairies
Life Span	15-18 years
Active Time of Day	Diurnal
Natural Prey	Mainly Amphibians, lizards, mice
Terrestrial / Semi Arboreal / Arboreal / Aquatic / Fossorial	Fossorial
Reproduction	Mate: Late spring / summer Lay: Late summer
Clutch Size	4 – 23 eggs
Breeding Weights / Length / Age	Males: 50g+ / 12 inches / 2 years old Females: 250g+ / 16inches / 2 years old
Brumation Time	2 months
Brumation Temperature	14 - 16 'C
Incubation Time	2 months
Incubation Temperature	25 – 27 'C

The types of Western Hognose colouration you could find in the wild:

Normal or Albino

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Captive Requirements and Welfare

The Western Hognose snake thrives in captivity although since they are mainly frog eaters can be tricky at times when it comes to feeding. If feeding difficulties arise this species does prefer slightly warmer temperatures therefore raising the temperature to 34'C tends to help solve the problem. With new born hatchlings some are quite fussy, so scenting techniques may be required to trick the snakes into eating pinkies. After that, they should consistently eat without trouble. The name "Hognose" comes from their upturned snout which acts as a shovel to help them burrow, therefore this species likes a relatively deep amount of substrate to hide under.

Vivarium size	30x30x30cm for hatchling 3ft x 1.5ft x 1.5ft for adult
Daytime Temperature (cool – warm)	24 – 34 'C
Nighttime Temperature	22 – 25 'C
Heating Equipment	Spot bulb during day, heat mat at night
Substrate	Most Natural: Dried Forest Floor and Beige Lucky Reptile Desert Bedding Alternatives: Beech Chip or Aspen
Hides	2 at minimum although due to their burrowing nature deep substrate could count as your 2 nd hide
Decor	Branches and fake plants allow the opportunity to climb and aids in shedding. Mountainous decor would be a natural climbing source which a hognose would exploit.
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 but be careful not to rush in changing sizes, giving them sizes too big could put them off eating.
Cleaning	Spot pick weekly, full clean monthly