



RVC Exotics Service
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HOGNOSE SNAKE CARE

Hognose snakes originate from North and South America and Madagascar. They generally live alone apart from at times of reproductive activity. They can be between 35-100 cm (14-40 inches) fully grown, the females tend to be larger than males. They can live for up to 20 years in captivity.

These include:

Heterodon, which occur mainly in the United States and northern Mexico

Leioheterodon, the hognose snakes native to the Madagascar and

Xenodon (formerly *Lystrophis*), the South American hognose snakes.

The North American *Heterodon* species are known for their habit of thanatosis: playing dead when threatened

HOUSING

As large a vivarium as possible should be provided to enable room for exercise, and a thermal gradient to be created along the length of the tank. Wooden or fibreglass vivaria are ideal as this provides the snake with some visual security and ventilation can be provided at snake level. We recommend a minimum vivarium size

Reviewed December 2024

ANNUAL HEALTH CHECKS

We recommend health checks every year for pet reptiles as medical problems are more easily treated if detected at an early stage. You can register for automatic reminders.

INSURANCE

We highly recommend that you take out a pet insurance policy. For a monthly fee your pet can receive the best treatment at an affordable cost. There is normally an excess to pay for each condition, then after that cost is covered up to a set limit. Once you have the policy, please provide us with a copy of your insurance details. There are a lot of different companies and policies available and we suggest you contact a number of them for information - we have a leaflet advising what to look out for. Our advice is to choose a policy which provides cover for chronic illness for the life of your pet. If this policy is too much for you, then the best cover you can afford will provide piece of mind in an emergency.

Leioheterodon modestus Blonde or golden hognose
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