

Ball Python FAQs

Ball pythons are one of the most popular pet snakes due to their calm temperament and relatively simple care requirements. However, new keepers often have questions about **ball python care, feeding, housing, and general husbandry**.

Below you will find answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about keeping ball pythons, along with links to our detailed **Ball Python Setup Guide, Feeding Guide, and Housing Care Sheets** for more in-depth information.

1. How big do Ball Pythons get?

Adult ball pythons typically reach between **3–5 feet in length**.

In terms of weight, **males commonly reach around 1,800 grams**, while **females typically reach around 3,000 grams**. Some individuals may be slightly smaller or larger than this, which can still be perfectly normal depending on the genetics and feeding schedule of the animal.

Despite their size, ball pythons are known for their **calm temperament**, which is one of the reasons they are such popular snakes for beginner keepers.

2. How often should I feed my Ball python?

Feeding frequency depends on the **age and size of the snake**.

Typical feeding guidelines are:

- Hatchlings – every **5–7 days**
- Juveniles – every **7 days**
- Sub-adults – every **7–10 days**
- Adults – every **7–14 days**

Prey size should generally be **around the same width as the thickest part of the snake's body**.

For more detailed information, including feeding issues and prey sizes, see the **Ball Python Care Guide: Feeding** on the website.

3. Why is my Ball Python not eating?

Ball pythons are well known for occasionally refusing food. The most common cause I see is that the **enclosure setup or temperatures are not correct**.

Before worrying, it is important to check:

- Temperatures are correct
- The enclosure provides adequate hides
- The snake feels secure in its environment
- The feeding routine has been consistent

You can find more detailed guidance in the **Ball Python Care Guide: Feeding** on the website.

If you have checked these factors and are still struggling, feel free to contact me explaining the issue and I will do my best to help.

4. How long can Ball Pythons go without food?

Ball pythons are known for going through **natural fasting periods**, particularly as they reach maturity. These fasting periods can last anywhere from **a few weeks to several months**, and occasionally even longer.

During any fasting period, it is important to **monitor the weight of your snake**. I recommend weighing your ball python **every 4–6 weeks**, especially during a non-eating period.

If the fast is normal, the snake should **not lose any significant weight**. However, if your snake begins to lose noticeable weight, behaves unusually, or shows any signs of ill health, you should **seek veterinary advice**.

5. Do Ball Pythons need UVB lighting?

Ball pythons do **not require UVB lighting** to remain healthy.

Most keepers successfully maintain ball pythons using **heat mats, radiant heat panels or other heating methods controlled by thermostats**.

Some keepers choose to provide low-level lighting to create a natural day/night cycle, but this is optional rather than essential.

6. How often do Ball Pythons shed?

Young ball pythons typically shed **every 3–6 weeks**, while adults may shed less frequently.

A healthy shed should normally come off **in one complete piece**. Poor or incomplete sheds are usually caused by **low humidity or dehydration**.

For more information about humidity levels and how to assist a snake during shedding, see the **Ball Python Care Guide: Housing**.

7. Are Ball Pythons good for beginners?

Yes. Ball pythons are widely considered one of the **best snake species for beginner keepers** due to their generally calm nature and manageable care requirements.

When kept in the correct environment with proper heating and feeding schedules, they can live **20–30 years or more**.

8. What temperature should a ball python enclosure be?

Ball pythons require a **temperature gradient** so they can move between warmer and cooler areas to regulate their body temperature.

Typical temperature ranges are:

- Warm side: **31–34°C (88–93°F)**
- Cool side: **25–27°C (77–80°F)**

Heating equipment should **always be controlled by a thermostat** to prevent overheating.

One of the most useful tools a reptile keeper can have is an **infrared digital temperature gun**. This allows you to accurately measure the surface temperatures inside the enclosure.

It is important to remember that the **temperature shown on a thermostat dial may not exactly match the temperature inside the enclosure**, so regularly checking temperatures with a temperature gun helps ensure your setup is correct.

For more detailed information about enclosure setup and heating equipment, see the **Ball Python Care Guide: Housing**.

9. What humidity do ball pythons need?

Ball pythons generally do best with humidity levels between **50–60%** during normal conditions.

During shedding, humidity should be **increased to around 80–90%** to help the snake shed its skin properly.

Low humidity is one of the most common causes of:

- Incomplete sheds
- Retained shed
- Dehydration

Maintaining proper humidity levels, along with providing a water bowl and appropriate substrate, will help support healthy shedding cycles.

For more information about enclosure humidity and how to assist a snake during shedding, see the **Ball Python Care Guide: Housing**.

10. How often should I handle my ball python?

When a new ball python first arrives home, it should be **left alone to settle into its enclosure**.

A good approach is:

- Leave the snake **undisturbed for the first three days**
- Offer the **first feed on the third night**
- Allow **two days for digestion**
- Begin handling after this settling period

The first handling session should be **short, around 10 minutes**.

You can usually tell how comfortable the snake feels by its body language. A relaxed snake will feel **soft and loose in the body and will tongue flick regularly**, exploring its surroundings. A stressed snake will often feel **tense or rigid**.

Over the first **two to three weeks**, gradually increase handling time as both you and the snake gain confidence.

Handling should always be avoided:

- Within **48 hours after feeding**
 - During shedding
 - When the snake appears stressed or defensive
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11. What substrate is best for ball pythons?

Ball pythons can be kept on several different types of substrate, but the most important factors are that it is **safe, clean, and able to maintain appropriate humidity levels**.

Common substrates used by keepers include:

- **Coconut husk / coco chip**
- **Cypress mulch**
- **Aspen bedding**
- **Paper-based substrates**

Substrates that help hold moisture, such as coconut husk or cypress mulch, can be particularly useful for maintaining the **correct humidity levels** within the enclosure.

The substrate should be **spot cleaned regularly** and replaced when necessary to maintain a clean environment.

You can find more information about enclosure setup, humidity, and suitable substrates in the **Ball Python Care Guide: Housing**.

12. How long do ball pythons live?

Ball pythons are a **long-lived species** when cared for correctly.

In captivity, it is common for ball pythons to live **20–30 years**, and some individuals have been recorded living even longer.

Because of their long lifespan, keeping a ball python should be considered a **long-term commitment**. Ensuring the correct enclosure setup, heating, humidity, and feeding schedule will help your snake remain healthy throughout its life.

13. How do I purchase a snake from Living Art Ball Pythons?

All my available ball pythons are advertised on my **MorphMarket store**. You can access this directly through the **“Available” section of the website**, which will take you straight to my MorphMarket listings.

Once you have found a snake you are interested in, you can contact me via:

- MorphMarket
- Social media
- Email
- The website contact form

Once the purchase has been agreed, I will send you an **invoice containing my payment details**. This invoice also serves as **proof of genetics for the snake**.

You must be **18 years or older** to make a purchase. If you are under 18, a parent or guardian must make the purchase on your behalf.

14. How do payment plans work?

I offer **interest-free payment plans** on any snake valued at **£150 or more**.

For snakes under £150, a **25% deposit (or £30, whichever is greater)** is required to reserve the animal, with the remaining balance paid within **4 weeks**.

Payment plans also require a **25% non-refundable deposit** to hold the snake. The remaining balance can then be paid via **weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments**, depending on the value of the snake.

Once the plan has been paid in full, the snake can be **collected or booked onto the next available courier run**.

Full details of payment plans and missed payments can be found in the **Terms and Conditions**.

15. How does the courier service work?

Where possible, **collection is always preferred** so we can meet in person. Collection is from **Batley, West Yorkshire** or from one of our Reptile Product Warehouse Open Days in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.

If collection is not possible, I can organise courier delivery within **mainland UK**.

Typical courier prices:

- South of the UK up to Newcastle – **£45**
- Newcastle to the Central Belt of Scotland – **£65**
- Above the Central Belt of Scotland – price dependent on location

The courier fee covers **up to five snakes in the same delivery**.

I use **Ridgeway Courier Service exclusively** to transport my animals. Please note that the prices listed above are **discounted rates I offer to my customers**, and are higher when booked directly through Ridgeway.

Once your snake has been **paid for in full**, including the courier fee, it will be booked onto the **next available courier run**.

Around **five days before the run begins**, the courier will contact you directly via **text message** with your exact delivery date and time slot.

It is important that **someone is present to receive the delivery**, as missed deliveries result in the snake being returned to the courier facility and rebooked onto a future run, which requires another courier fee.

For full details of their service, you can contact **Ridgeway Courier via their Facebook page**.

16. Ball Python Care Guides

If you're looking for more detailed information, see our full care guides:

BALL PYTHON CARE SHEET: FAQ'S
LIVING ART BALL PYTHON'S
www.livingartballpythons.co.uk

- **Ball Python Setup Guide & Beginner Checklist**
- **Ball Python Care Guide: Housing**
- **Ball Python Care Guide: Feeding**