King and milk snakes are native to temperate and subtropical areas of North and Central America. These snakes come in a variety of colors and patterns.

facts

average adult size: 2 to 6 feet long, depending on species

average life span: up to 15+ years with proper care, depending on species

diet: carnivore

Will reach adult size in 3 years, depending on species and under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your snake grows.

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, refer to the Sources section or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.
red flags

- Unusually frequent or infrequent shedding
- Vomiting
- Lethargic or reluctant to eat
- Abnormal feces
- Bumps or spots on skin
- Labored breathing
- Difficulty shedding
- White, cheesy substance in mouth

common health issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Issue</th>
<th>Symptoms or Causes</th>
<th>Suggested Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dermatitis</td>
<td>Blisters, rapid shedding caused by an unclean habitat or one that is too cold or damp.</td>
<td>Consult your veterinarian, clean the habitat and lower humidity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory disease</td>
<td>Labored breathing, mucus in mouth or nostrils. Can be caused by a habitat that is too cold or damp.</td>
<td>Consult your veterinarian and keep snake warm and dry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stomatitis</td>
<td>White, cheesy substance in the mouth, loss of teeth and appetite. If untreated, can be fatal.</td>
<td>Immediately consult your veterinarian.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ticks and mites</td>
<td>Parasites on skin, can transmit disease.</td>
<td>Consult your veterinarian.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you notice any of these signs, contact your veterinarian.
shopping list for needed supplies

- Appropriately sized habitat
- Substrate
- Moss
- Large water dish
- Hideaway place
- Climbing décor
- Plants
- Heat light/emitter
- Heat fixture
- Under-tank heater (optional)
- Thermometer
- Humidity gauge
- Book about king and milk snakes

sources

Ask a store partner about Petco's selection of books on king and milk snakes and the variety of private brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All private brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

Because all reptiles are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as *Salmonella*, always wash your hands before and after handling your reptile or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of disease.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5, senior citizens and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing or caring for reptiles and should consider not having a reptile as a pet.

Go to [cdc.gov/healthypets](http://cdc.gov/healthypets) and [petco.com/caresheet](http://petco.com/caresheet) for more information about reptiles and disease.

This Care Sheet can cover the care needs of other species. Go to [petco.com](http://petco.com) for more information.