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CALIFORNIA KINGSNAKE

Lampropeltis getula californiae

ORIGIN: California kingsnakes are native to the southwestern United States including Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and California south through Baja. Their habitat varies from pine woods to farmlands and rocky deserts. Your kingsnake was born in captivity.

SIZE: California kingsnakes reach an average adult length of 3.5 to 4.5 feet.

CAGING: California kingsnakes can be kept in a variety of plastic and glass cages. The cage must be equipped with a secure, tight fitting lid that provides ventilation. A 30-gallon aquarium with a screen lid is large enough to house an adult kingsnake. Kingsnakes are cannibalistic and must be housed individually.

SUBSTRATE: California kingsnakes will thrive on a variety of substrates including newspaper, mulch, pine shavings, sand, and bark. Do not use cedar shavings because they are toxic to the snake.

TEMPERATURE: California kingsnakes should be provided with a thermal gradient ranging from 80°F at one end of the cage to 95°F at the other. This is easily achieved by placing a heat mat at one end of the enclosure.

LIGHT: California kingsnakes do not require any special lighting because they are nocturnal and consume whole vertebrates.

WATER: California kingsnakes should be provided with fresh, clean water at all times. A water dish

which allows the snake to submerge its entire body is preferable, but not a necessity. Use a water bowl which is not easily overturned.

DIET: California kingsnakes feed on appropriately sized mice and rats. Feeder rodents may be purchased live or frozen. Live rodents should not be left in the snake's cage unattended. Frozen rodents should be thawed to room temperature prior to feeding. Kingsnakes should be fed 1-2 times per week.

RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- Glass or plastic enclosure
- Secure lid for enclosure
- Heat mat approximately half size of enclosure
- Thermometer with probe to monitor temperature
- Substrate as detailed above
- Literature about kingsnake husbandry
- Hiding area such as cork bark or imitation rock
- Water dish

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

- Fluorescent light
- Nightlight for nighttime viewing
- Silk plants and branches
- Decorative cage background
- Moist hide area

SMALL ANIMAL & REPTILE REPLACEMENT GUARANTEE

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Please contact the Pet Supplies "Plus" where the animal was purchased with any questions or concerns about your new pet.

- Pet Supplies "Plus" guarantees the health of all animals for 7 days. Please bring in the animal along with the original sales receipt should any problems arise within the seven day period.
- Due to many different variables Pet supplies "Plus" does not guarantee the sex of any animal.
- Pet supplies "Plus" does not assume responsibility for any veterinary care or medications.
- Please practice proper hygiene whenever handling animals.

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NOTE: The information contained in this caresheet solely represents the opinions of the author.

It is not intended as a complete guide to captive husbandry.