



Common Garter Snake



OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Thamnophis sirtalis*
- Origin: North America
- Ease of Care: Beginner
- Potential Adult Size: Up to 4ft
- Life Span: Upwards of 10 years
- Behaviour: Diurnal
- Diet: Carnivore
- Handling: Intermediate
- Humidity: 40-50%

TOP TIPS

- ✓ A Vivarium is best suited for this species
- ✓ Vary the food items you offer to your Garter Snake to keep it stimulated
- ✓ Use a sand scoop to make any daily spot cleaning easier

HOUSING

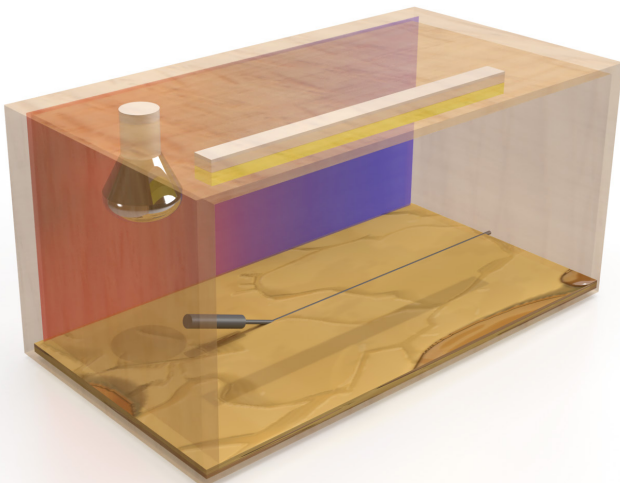
We recommend HabiStat Standard Vivarium 36x24x24 inches (DVF3624), or the bigger 48x24x24 inches (DVF4824) would be ideal for the life of the species.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Housing: Vivarium
- Heating: Heat Bulb
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Jungle Bio
- Water: Water bowl

ENVIRONMENT

Terrestrial Vivarium Setup



Heating

Garter Snakes are a diurnal species and require a suitable light and heat gradient in the enclosure to simulate a complete 24-hour period.

- Background Temp: 22°C (72°F) to 25°C (77°F).
- HOT Spot: 30°C (86°F)
- Night-Time Temp: 18°C-22°C (68°F-72°F).

Provide a warmer/hot area towards the one side of the enclosure, using an overhead heat source to offer a heat gradient. Use an Arcadia Graphite Ceramic Reflector Clamp Lamp (RARMG160) with a HabiStat Heat Bulb (HBB100) running through a HabiStat Dimming Thermostat (HTDW).

Dimming thermostats are designed to regulate

temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the snake. Check temperatures regularly, using a reliable dual thermometer and hygrometer to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

Lighting

Secure an Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit 6% (RARTP39F) on the inside roof of the vivarium, with the Arcadia Lamp Guard Pro protecting the UV tube from inquisitive snakes if needed.

Ensure that it is fitted correctly and within the manufacturers recommended distances.

Substrates and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your enclosure, but we recommend the following as a guide:

- Garter Snakes can be housed on HabiStat Jungle Bio (HSJB10).
- Wood/branches for climbing, hiding, and sleeping on.
- Live or artificial plant decoration will provide darker areas for the Garter Snake to also sleep and hide under.
- A moist hide will also be beneficial should the Garter Snake choose to use it.

DIET & WATER

Hatchlings through to adults should be offered appropriately sized thawed frozen prey.

Make sure fresh water is always available for the Garter Snake to drink. Place the water bowl at the cool end of the enclosure.

SUPPLEMENTATION

Additional supplementation is minimal within the diet of Garter Snakes. A light dusting of a calcium and multi-vitamin powder such as Arcadia Earth Pro-A (RAREP100) and Arcadia Earth Pro Calcium Mg (RAREPCM80) every few months would meet these requirements. Please follow the packaging instructions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This species thrives in a low humidity set up (40-50%) humidity. A moist hide will provide a humid area to retreat to.

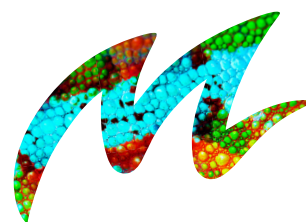
HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Garter Snake healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	Change old water for fresh water	Spot clean	Check vents on enclosure are not blocked and allow air to pass through freely
Weekly	Disinfect water bowl or dish	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build-up and remove any dirty bedding	Wipe down glass and walls with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Take out old substrate and replace with new substrate	Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling or feeding your Garter Snake, their food, enclosure and any other equipment.



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HabiStat

