

# Texas Rat Snake



## OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Elaphe obsoleta lindheimeri*
- Origin: Southern, Central United States
- Ease of Care: Beginner
- Potential Adult Size: 4-6 feet
- Life Span: Upwards of 20 years
- Behaviour: Nocturnal
- Diet: Carnivore
- Handling: Beginner
- Humidity: 30-50%

## TOP TIPS

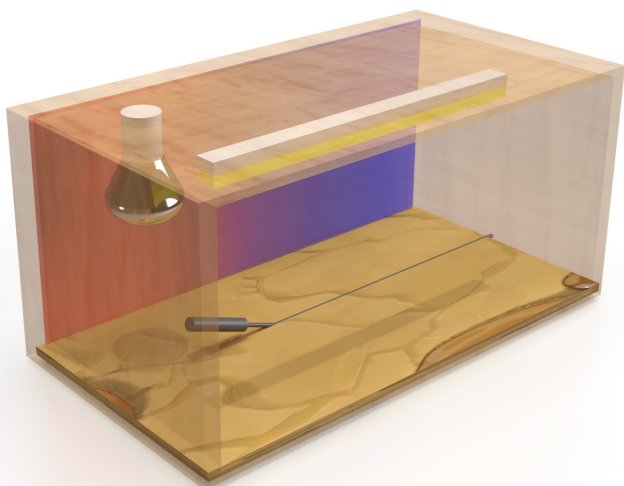
- ✓ After feeding, let your snake digest its meal for 2 days before handling.
- ✓ Offer a smaller or larger food item if your snake refuses to feed.
- ✓ If your snake is refusing its food when it's about to shed, wait until the snake has fully shed before offering food.
- ✓ A bad shed is normally a sign of something wrong in the snake's environment.
- ✓ Ensure Vivarium vents are facing inwards. This should stop an inquisitive snake from pushing the vents out and escaping.

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Housing: Vivarium
- Heating: Heat Bulb
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Jungle Bio, Arcadia EarthMix Arid, HabiStat Snake Bedding
- Water: HabiStat Sandstone Water Dish

## ENVIRONMENT

### Terrestrial Vivarium Setup



## HOUSING

Hatchling / Juvenile Snake – HabiStat Hatchling Starter Kit (HSSK)

Adult (2ft+ length) Snake – HabiStat 48x24x24 Vivarium (DVF4824)

### Heating

The HabiStat Snake Accessory Kit (HSSAK) provides all the light, heat, and safety elements for the enclosure in one handy kit.

The Texas Rat Snake (*Elaphe obsoleta lindheimeri*) is considered a nocturnal reptile and requires a suitable light and heat gradient in the enclosure to simulate a complete 24-hour period.

#### Heating a Vivarium

- Background Temp: 23°C - 25°C (74-77°F)
- HOT Spot: 28°C - 32°C (82-90°F)
- Night-Time Temp: 18°C - 23°C (65-74°F)

Provide a warmer/hot area towards one end of the enclosure, using an overhead heat source to offer a heat gradient. Use an Arcadia Pro Ceramic Lamp Holder & Bracket (RADCHP) with the HabiStat Heat Bulb (HBB100) and the HabiStat Heater Guard (HHG24) protecting the bulb, all running in conjunction with 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 animal.

Check temperatures and humidity regularly using a reliable thermometer and hygrometer to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

## Lighting

Fit the Arcadia Pro T5 6% (RARTP24F) on the inside roof of the Vivarium. This will supply realistic UVB levels within the enclosure.

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

## Substrates and Decoration

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

- HabiStat Jungle Bio (HSJB10), Arcadia EarthMix Arid (RAREA10), HabiStat Snake Bedding (HSSB10)
- HabiStat Cork Branch (HDB1), HabiStat Grapevine (HSGV) and HabiStat Tea Tree Branch (HSNTB) will offer shelter and enrichment within the enclosure
- Live or artificial plant decoration will provide darker areas for the Texas Rat Snake to use as shelter

## DIET & WATER

Texas Rat Snakes are a thawed Rodent and Poultry eating species.

Always provide a source of fresh water. The HabiStat Sandstone Water Dish (HRSSCL) will provide a safe and sturdy option.

To maintain and regulate humidity within the enclosure, mist as required.

## SUPPLEMENTATION

Texas Rat Snakes do not require additional supplementation in the form of a calcium and multi-vitamin powder if the diet is kept varied.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- A Texas Rat Snake will shed its skin every so often, depending on how big the snake is and how quickly its growing. As a rule, a young snake will shed every 3 to 6 weeks, and an older snake every 2 to 6 months.
- The best way to tell that your Snake is about to shed their skin, is to look at their general colour and eyes.
- The Snake will appear duller than normal and may have a washed-out look. This will become more obvious as the Snake nears shedding its skin.
- The Snake's eyes will also appear clouded at first and will eventually turn a bluey/grey colour. Normal colouration will return once the Snake has shed its skin

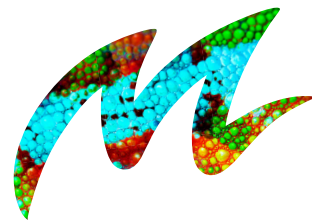
## HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Texas Rat 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 Honduran Milk Snake, their food, enclosure and any other equipment.



### Monkfield Nutrition Ltd

Arthur Rickwood Farm  
Chatteris Road, Mepal, Ely, CB6 2AZ

[monkfieldreptile.com](http://monkfieldreptile.com)

Telephone: 01223 208261

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