

Snake behaviour

Social behaviour

Snakes are solitary animals and prefer to live alone. In the wild snakes do seek out social interaction.

Activity levels

Snakes activity levels vary depending on weather variables and hunger.

Sleeping patterns

Snakes sleep 16 hours a day but can sleep longer in the winter. Snakes sleep with their eyes open.

Eating and drinking

Snakes eat a mouse or rodent once per week.

The easiest ways of supplying water is in the terrarium in a basin. The basin should have just enough water that it covers the snake and this will help with their digestion.

Mating and pregnancy

The female snake ultimately decides when to open her cloaca to allow for mating to occur. Females also use genital contractions to control the duration of copulation and can interrupt sex if a mate proves unsatisfactory.

How environmental factors can influence behaviour for a particular species:

With or without companionship

Whilst snakes can be seen in groups in the wild, they are better off as solitary inhabitants when enclosed. Snakes kept together could fight and even eat the other snake.

Time of the year/seasonal changes

Snake brumation can begin anytime from September to December and last until March or April, depending on the weather pattern. In addition, snakes may come out of brumation if a warm front changes the weather, warming their blood and making them more active.

Accommodation

There are many ways to house your snake from a wooden cage with lockable glass doors, a converted aquarium or a molded plastic vivarium all of which must be secure so that the snake cannot escape from its housing. Reptiles require a 'thermogradient' - meaning placing a guarded heat lamp at one end of the vivarium and leaving the opposite end cool. The basking zone should range from 28 to 30 degrees C, and the cool end 20 to 24 degrees C. Monitor temperatures daily using digital thermometers at each end.

<https://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/reptiles-amphibians/snakes/about-snakes>