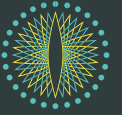


Angolan Python

All Reptiles, all the time.



Introduction

The Angolan Python (*Python anchietae*) is one of Africa's most beautiful and underrated pythons. Native to the rocky hillsides and semi arid regions of Angola and northern Namibia, this medium sized species is admired for its rich reddish brown coloration highlighted by cream and tan blotches that often become even more vibrant with age. Closely related to the Ball Python, Angolan Pythons share their generally calm disposition but are considerably more active and inquisitive. They are excellent climbers when young and readily explore their surroundings, making them fascinating animals to observe. Although they remain uncommon within the reptile hobby, their manageable size, hardy nature, and attractive appearance have made them increasingly popular among keepers looking for something a little different.

Care sheets are only to be taken as guidelines. Just as with all animals, each reptile will have unique traits & personalities special to the individual animal that may require adaptation in their husbandry & care. The following care sheet will address basic requirements but as the primary caretaker of your pet, we encourage you to take notice of your pet's behaviours and preferences and make adjustments as they grow with you & your family. Please also keep in mind that unlike mammals, most reptiles change their behaviour according to the weather seasons even if you keep them indoors all year round.



CHEAT SHEET

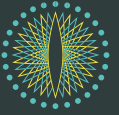
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COMMON NAME	Angolan Python
SCIENTIFIC NAME	<i>Python anchietae</i>
NATURAL LOCATION	Angola, Northern Namibia
HABITAT (WILD)	Rocky outcrops, scrublands, dry savannah, semi-arid woodland
CAPTIVE ENCLOSURE	20-40gal+
SUBSTRATE	ZM Forest Floor, Reptisoil, Coconut Husk, Bioactive Soil Blends
TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE	Cooler: 75-80°F (24-27°C), Nighttime: 72-75°F (22-24°C)
BASKING TEMPERATURE	88-92°F (31-33°C)
UVB LIGHTING	Non Essential. Can be beneficial if provided in small amounts.
HUMIDITY	45-60%
AVERAGE ADULT SIZE	3.5-5 feet
CAPTIVE LIFESPAN	20-30+ years
FUN FACT	Unlike many pythons that rely heavily on camouflage, Angolan Pythons are excellent climbers and are frequently found sheltering within rocky crevices throughout their native range.



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Housing

Enclosure: Angolan Pythons remain a manageable size compared to many other python species, making them well suited for a standard 40gal enclosure or a little larger as adults. Juveniles generally do very well in a 20-30 gallon enclosure before eventually being upgraded as they mature. Larger enclosures are always encouraged provided proper temperatures and security can still be maintained. Like many snakes, Angolan Pythons appreciate feeling secure and generally settle much more quickly when provided with multiple hides throughout the enclosure.

Although often compared to Ball Pythons, Angolan Pythons are typically more active and curious, spending more time exploring their surroundings, particularly during the evening hours. Providing a thoughtfully furnished enclosure with multiple hiding places and climbing opportunities encourages many of their natural behaviours.

Substrate: Selecting an appropriate substrate helps maintain healthy humidity while creating a comfortable environment for your snake. We recommend substrates such as Zoo Med Forest Floor, Zoo Med Reptisoil, coconut husk, or well established bioactive soil blends. These substrates retain moisture well without remaining excessively damp and allow for natural behaviours while making routine maintenance straightforward. Unlike many tropical snakes, Angolan Pythons do not require constantly wet substrate. Instead, maintaining moderate humidity while allowing the surface to remain relatively dry generally produces the healthiest environment.

Temperature & Humidity: Angolan Pythons require a warm enclosure with a clearly defined temperature gradient. Surface basking temperatures should reach approximately 88-92°F (31-33°C), while the cooler side remains between 75-80°F (24-27°C). Nighttime temperatures may safely fall to approximately 72-75°F (22-24°C).

Humidity should generally remain between 45-60%. This species naturally experiences seasonal fluctuations throughout the year, and maintaining moderate humidity allows for healthy shedding without creating an overly damp enclosure. During shedding cycles, temporarily increasing humidity or providing a humid hide can be beneficial.

Lighting: Angolan Pythons can benefit from both under tank heating as well as overhead heating depending on the enclosure style setup. If you are able to provide ample climbing space, then a combination of both is highly recommended. Heating may be provided using under tank heaters, basking bulbs, ceramic heat emitters, radiant heat panels, or deep heat projectors. Keep in mind that if using over head heating, your enclosure will dry out faster and it is very

important to maintain humidity so measures must be taken to ensure a well balanced husbandry setup. Regardless of the heating method chosen, temperatures should always be monitored using reliable digital thermometers.

Decor: Angolan Pythons appreciate enclosures that provide both security and opportunities for exploration. Multiple secure hides should always be available on both the warm and cool sides of the enclosure. Cork bark, sturdy branches, rock ledges, climbing structures, and natural wood all provide excellent enrichment while creating a much more natural appearance. Juveniles especially enjoy climbing and will often utilize elevated branches far more frequently than many keepers expect. As adults they become increasingly terrestrial but continue to appreciate varied terrain throughout their enclosure.



Diet

Feeding: Angolan Pythons are carnivores that feed primarily on appropriately sized rodents throughout their lives. Frozen thawed prey is strongly recommended whenever possible as it greatly reduces the risk of injury associated with live feeding. Live prey can be offered with supervision. Prey size should be selected based on the widest portion of the snake's body rather than its head.

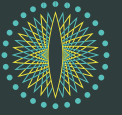
Young animals generally feed every 5-7 days, while adults often thrive when fed every 10-14 days depending on prey size and body condition. Maintaining a lean, muscular body condition is considerably healthier than allowing excessive weight gain. Like many pythons, healthy adults may naturally reduce their feeding during cooler months without cause for concern.

Supplementation: No dietary supplementation is normally required when feeding appropriately sized whole prey items, as rodents provide a complete nutritional profile for healthy snakes.

Water: Fresh clean water should always be available in a sturdy bowl large enough for soaking if desired. Although many individuals soak infrequently, they often make greater use of their water dish while preparing to shed or during warmer weather. Water should be changed regularly and bowls cleaned frequently to maintain good hygiene.

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Health & Maintenance

Hygiene: Spot clean the enclosure whenever waste is observed to prevent bacteria from accumulating. Water bowls should be cleaned frequently, and substrate replaced periodically depending on the type of enclosure being maintained. Traditional enclosures generally benefit from complete substrate replacement several times each year, while properly established bioactive systems often require considerably less maintenance. Clean enclosures greatly reduce the likelihood of respiratory infections, mites, and other preventable health concerns.

Handling: Angolan Pythons are generally calm snakes that tolerate regular handling very well once properly acclimated. Newly acquired animals should be given time to settle into their new enclosure before handling begins. Gentle, confident handling sessions help establish trust while minimizing stress. Always support the snake's body during handling and avoid sudden movements that may cause unnecessary defensive behaviour. With regular positive interactions, many Angolan Pythons become remarkably relaxed and confident around their keepers.

Behavioural observation: Healthy Angolan Pythons spend much of the day resting inside secure hides before becoming increasingly active during the evening. Regular tongue flicking, steady muscle tone, consistent feeding responses, and clean complete sheds are all excellent indicators of good health.

Watch for changes in appetite outside of normal seasonal slowdowns, wheezing, excessive soaking, retained eye caps, incomplete sheds, weight loss, or unusual swelling. Like many snakes, Angolan Pythons often hide signs of illness until they become more advanced, making routine observation especially important.

Quarantine: Quarantine any new additions to your reptile collection to prevent the spread of diseases.

