



## Green Tree Python Care Sheet:

**Species Name:**

*Morelia viridis*

**Adult size:**

Up to 6ft

**Lifespan:**

15-20 Years

**Breeding Age:**

1 year



Green tree pythons (*Morelia viridis*) are strikingly beautiful non-venomous snakes native to New Guinea, parts of Indonesia, and the Cape York Peninsula in Australia. Renowned for their vibrant green colouration, these arboreal snakes often exhibit blue, yellow, or white markings. Juveniles are typically yellow, red, or orange, transitioning to green as they mature, a process known as ontogenetic colour change. These pythons are nocturnal, spending most of their lives in trees, where their prehensile tails aid in climbing and securing themselves on branches. Green tree pythons have a diet primarily consisting of small mammals, birds, and occasionally reptiles. They employ ambush tactics, waiting motionlessly for prey to come within striking distance. In captivity, they are popular among reptile enthusiasts due to their striking appearance, though they require specific care, including high humidity and temperature control, to thrive. Their beauty and unique behaviour make them a fascinating species to study and observe.

## **Housing:**

**Enclosure:** Use a secure, escape-proof enclosure with suitable ventilation to control humidity.

**Size:** For an adult Green Tree Python a suitable enclosure size is roughly 3ft long and has a appropriate height due to this being an arboreal species. Putting a juvenile in an enclosure this size may prove stressful due to the abundance of open space, be sure to include plenty of hiding species to mitigate the stress factors.

**Substrate:** A humid substrate like bark chips or coir will mimic their natural environment.

## **Temperature and Lighting:**

**Temperature Gradient:** Maintain a temperature gradient in the enclosure. The warm side should be around 27-30°C, while the cool side should be 21-26°C.

**Heating:** Use an under-tank heating pad, ceramic heat emitter or heat tape to create a warm spot. A thermostat is essential to regulate the temperature.

**Lighting:** Green Tree Pythons do not require special lighting, but a day/night cycle should be maintained. A simple ambient room light is usually sufficient. If you wish to use UVB lighting, a 6% shade dweller light can be used.

## **Humidity:**

**Humidity Level:** Keep the humidity level between 40-70%.

**Misting:** Provide a water bowl and mist the enclosure as needed to maintain humidity.

## **Feeding:**

**Diet:** Feed your Python appropriately sized prey items. For juveniles, start with appropriately sized mice, and as they grow, transition to larger rodents.

**Feeding Schedule:** Feed juveniles every 5-7 days, while adults can be fed every 10-14 days. Adjust the schedule based on the individual snake's metabolism.

**Prey Size:** Offer prey items that are about the same width as the snake's widest part.



## **Health and Handling:**

**Regular Check-ups:** Monitor your snake for signs of illness, such as respiratory issues or changes in behaviour. If any concerns arise, consult a reptile veterinarian.

**Handling:** These snakes are known to be very snappy and do not enjoy being handled the majority of the time. Limit handling to only when necessary!

## **Enrichment:**

**Hide Boxes:** Provide multiple hide boxes on both the warm and cool sides of the enclosure.

**Branches and Climbing:** Include branches or climbing structures for exercise and mental stimulation.

**Environmental Variation:** Occasionally rearrange the enclosure layout to provide environmental enrichment.

## **General Tips:**

**Cleanliness:** Keep the enclosure clean by removing waste regularly and disinfecting as needed.

**Research:** Stay informed about the specific needs and behaviours of Tree Pythons to ensure their well-being.

Remember that each snake is an individual, and adjustments may be necessary based on your snake's specific requirements and preferences. Always consult with a reptile veterinarian for personalized advice.