



## Darwin Carpet Python

*Morelia spilota variegata*

**Natural distribution:** They are found throughout northern Australia, encompassing north-east Western Australia, Northern Territory and western Queensland.

**Adult size (including tail):** Approximately 1.8m

**Temperature in captivity:** Day time air temperature 28-30.5°C, night time should not be lower than 22°C.

The python will regulate its body temperature by moving in and out of the temperature zones in the vivarium, these temperatures are maintained by using a **Reptile One Ceramic Heat Lamp Reflector** and a **Reptile One Daylight Basking Lamp** or **Reptile One Fan Heater** positioned over ornaments or substrate. The soft air movement created by the **Reptile One Fan Heater** circulates the air in the vivarium more efficiently. The wattage size of the heat lamps are determined by the size of the vivarium and internal décor. Night time temperatures can be maintained by a **Reptile One Ceramic Heat Lamp Reflector** and a **Reptile One Night Heat Lamp**.

Pythons benefit from belly warming, to assist in the digestion of food and general well being. **Reptile One Heat Mats** offer a range of sizes, and the heat mat should not be greater than 25% of the floor area of the vivarium. **Reptile One Heat Mats** are left on day and night, it is important not to position the heat mat under basking lights; the best positions are under logs or ornamental rocks.

**Lighting:** **Reptile One Reflector** with a **Reptile One Moon Tube** is recommended as most Pythons are nocturnal. If you require day time lighting a **Reptile One UVB2.0 Tube** is recommended.

**Enclosure:** Reptile One have a range of enclosures from 30cm for hatchlings to 120cm for adults in glass or timber finishes. The aesthetic properties of the **Reptile One Red Desert Sand** with a section of the vivarium floor covered with **Reptile One Reptabed** bark substrate will give a variable moist surface which would be a suitable substrate for 'top-end' dwelling pythons. This substrate allows you to clean up waste easily and should be renewed regularly.

**Ornaments:** A choice of Reptile One decorative rocks and tree branches will give you the ability to provide a near natural décor, especially if the reptile friendly artificial plants are used to provide shade and hide spots for the pythons.

**Backgrounds:** The wide range of Reptile One artificial rock backgrounds allows you to choose a natural feature with or without crevices for your vivarium.

**Diet & Feeding:** Juvenile pythons are best fed a pinkie mouse once a week, increase the size of their meal as the snake grows not the frequency, an adult python will take an adult rat once a week.

Frozen rats/mice/pinkies should be warmed to the normal body temperature of a mouse, 38°C, as this will assist in the python identifying it as food. Place the mouse in the vivarium with **Reptile One Feeding Tongs** so the snake does not mistake your hand as food. In some instances the food item may have to be wiggled so that the snake thinks it is still alive.

Recording information about your python is highly encouraged, such as the snakes weight, when they have shed their skin, when and what they have eaten. This is useful information that can be presented to a veterinarian if problems arise or if you are presenting the python for a general check up.

**Handling:** Most young pythons will be defensive to all movement until they are confident they are in no danger. Use a **Reptile One Snake Hook** to lift the young python up onto your hand. If you are unsure, ask for a demonstration on the best handling technique before you purchase the python. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE AND AFTER HANDLING PYTHONS.**

Seek advice from a specialist reptile veterinarian for all health issues.

It is illegal to remove native pythons from the wild in Australia without the appropriate Government permits, please check your states regulations on the appropriate permits to enable you to keep captive bred pythons. Please do not release any captive pythons into the wild as this will disrupt the natural order of our environment.