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## Milksnake



Adequate Temperature		
	Hot spot	Cold spot
Day temperature	29 °C	25 °C
Night temperature	24 °C	23 °C

### Main Features :

The coral snake, milky snake or milksnake is essentially nocturnal. It has a rounded head and its colors are well defined. Of red majority, it has white bands surrounded by black bands. This species is not venomous. On the other hand, its pattern is reminiscent of a species that is, which causes predators to flee. To differentiate between the two species, it is enough to make sure that the white does not touch the red color in the initial color model. The size of this snake is on average 120 cm, but it can reach 140 cm. His life expectancy is 15 years.

### Captivity:

The habitat of the Coral Snake must be at least 80 cm x 40 cm x 40 cm and be provided with a lid and a heating system. Humidity (50%) and temperature (see table above) should be carefully monitored to maintain the health of your snake. To maintain the proper temperature, the use of a heating mat, out of reach of the animal can be used as well as a heat lamp not accessible for the latter. The carpet must be installed under the terrarium in order to avoid any direct contact. If the animal has access to the heating source, the risk of burns is close to 100%. A reptile does not feel the heat on its skin, it is only once it is too late that it feels the wound. In order to better control the humidity level and to maintain an adequate temperature, it is strongly recommended to buy a thermometer and a hygrometer to better control the variants. The ideal is to get a thermostat that will regulate the temperature itself, but it is important to make sure that it always works, even after several years! The addition of an easily cleanable surface (paper towels, tarpaulin, etc.) as a substrate is required. A gravel or sand substrate is not recommended due to the risk of the animal ingesting this product, which can cause intestinal blockage. It is however possible to use sand or Aspen, if you feed your snake out of its vivarium. For this species, it is mandatory to provide at least 2 hiding places, one on the warm side and one on the cold side, so as to reproduce in a natural way its environment.



### **Food :**

The milksnake is a strict carnivore! It is therefore obligatory to provide her with prey so that she can feed herself and satisfy her predatory instinct. In the wild, they feed on small mammals. In domestic life, you can offer him mice, gerbils, etc. If your pet tolerates it, you can give the dead animals (from where you know the source) to minimize the risk of injury. For the coral snake, it must be offered 1-2 suckling pigs or a small rat 1 time per week.



### **Frequent health problems:**

- **Infections:** Infections can occur in the mouth (stomatitis), on the skin (bacterial or fungal) or in the form of abscess. This condition is often the cause of poor nutrition, excess moisture or poor hygiene.
- **Parasites:** A snake can sometimes catch parasites in many ways, such as having been outside, being boarded or in pet stores or from their live food (mice, rats, etc.). If the animal is not treated following the appearance of parasites, it could become anemic and die. Parasites feed on your pet's blood, where they can find the nutrients they need for survival.
- **Moult problem:** A reptile moults several times a year. The moult consists of a change of skin. The animal grows up and the scales become too tight on it. He develops new ones and the old ones have to leave. A moult problem occurs when the degree of humidity is not adequate.
- **Obstruction:** An uninformed owner may offer an oversized animal as a meal to his snake. The snake sometimes has eyes bigger than the belly and tries to eat its prey. That's when he may choke or have an intestinal block!
- **Cloacal Prolapse:** A cloacal prolapse is an externalization of part of the digestive system of your reptile. It is therefore possible to see part of the intestine of your reptile out its cloaca (opening that connects the anus and the reproductive system).

As with all animals, it is recommended that an examination be conducted after the purchase of a new reptile and an annual check is required. The annual exam helps prevent health problems that may occur and thus save the life of your pet. If in doubt, a visit to the veterinarian is required! A reptile, whatever it is, will hide its symptoms so as not to become an easy prey for predators (humans). At the slightest change in behavior, contact your veterinarian.

