

The Mole Kingsnake: The Ultimate Owner's Guide

The Mole Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata*) is a species of non-venomous snake native to the southeastern United States. As a member of the Colubridae family, they are closely related to the popular corn snake and rat snake.

Mole Kingsnakes have a distinctive appearance. Adults typically measure 2-3 feet in length, with a thickset body and smooth scales. Their coloration varies, but they often feature vibrant patterns of black, white, and yellow or orange.



MOLE KINGSNAKE: The Best Owners Guide

by Mary Matthews

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1037 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 10 pages

Lending : Enabled



As the name suggests, Mole Kingsnakes are skilled burrowers, spending much of their time underground in search of prey. Their primary food source consists of small rodents and amphibians.

Characteristics

- **Temperament:** Mole Kingsnakes are generally docile and easy to handle, making them suitable for both experienced and beginner keepers.
- **Size:** Adults typically reach lengths of 2-3 feet, with females being slightly larger than males.
- **Lifespan:** In captivity, Mole Kingsnakes can live for 15-20 years.
- **Appearance:** They have a thickset body with smooth scales. Their coloration varies, but they often feature vibrant patterns of black, white, yellow, or orange.
- **Habitat:** Mole Kingsnakes are found in underground burrows and moist, wooded areas.

Enclosure

Providing an appropriate enclosure is essential for the well-being of your Mole Kingsnake. A glass or plastic terrarium measuring at least 20 gallons in size is recommended for adults. The enclosure should be secure and escape-proof, with a tight-fitting lid.

The enclosure should be furnished with various elements to accommodate the snake's natural behaviors. These may include:

- Hides: Multiple hides should be provided, offering the snake secure and private spaces to rest and feel secure.
- Substrate: A substrate of aspen shavings, cypress mulch, or coconut husk can help maintain humidity within the enclosure.
- Water bowl: A shallow water bowl should be provided at all times, allowing the snake to soak or drink when needed.
- Heat source: Mole Kingsnakes require a warm environment. A heat source, such as a heating pad or ceramic heat emitter, should be provided in one corner of the enclosure to create a basking spot.

Temperature and Humidity

Maintaining proper temperature and humidity levels is crucial for the health of your Mole Kingsnake. The ideal temperature gradient should be established within the enclosure, ranging from 75-85°F (24-29°C) on the warm side to 70-75°F (21-24°C) on the cool side.

Humidity should be maintained at around 60-70%. This can be achieved by regularly misting the enclosure or providing a humidity box filled with damp

sphagnum moss.

Feeding

Mole Kingsnakes are primarily carnivorous, with a diet consisting mainly of small rodents and amphibians. In captivity, they can be fed pre-killed mice or rats appropriate to their size. Hatchlings should be fed weekly, while adults can be fed every 10-14 days.

Frozen-thawed prey is the safest and most convenient option for feeding. To encourage your snake to eat, gently warm the prey to body temperature before offering it.

Handling

Mole Kingsnakes are generally docile and handleable, but it is essential to approach them with care and respect. Always support their body fully and avoid making sudden movements.

Before handling your snake, wash your hands thoroughly. Handle them in a calm and quiet environment, and avoid handling them after feeding.

Health

With proper care and maintenance, Mole Kingsnakes are generally healthy and hardy snakes. However, like all animals, they are susceptible to certain health issues. Some common health concerns for Mole Kingsnakes include:

- **Respiratory infections:** These are often caused by bacteria or fungi and can be treated with antibiotics or antifungals.

- **Scale rot:** This is a bacterial infection that affects the snake's skin and can be treated with topical antibiotics.

- **Mites and ticks:** These parasites can infest the snake's skin and cause irritation and discomfort. They can be treated with appropriate parasiticides.

The Mole Kingsnake is a fascinating and rewarding reptile to keep in captivity. Their small size, docile temperament, and striking appearance make them popular among both experienced and beginner snake enthusiasts.

By providing proper care and attention, you can ensure the health and well-being of your Mole Kingsnake for many years to come. Remember to consult with a qualified veterinarian for any health concerns or questions.



MOLE KINGSNAKE: The Best Owners Guide

by Mary Matthews

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1037 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 10 pages
Lending : Enabled

FREE

DOWNLOAD E-BOOK





The Complete Guide for Startups: How to Get Investors to Say Yes

Are you a startup founder looking to raise funding from investors? If so, then you need to read this guide. We'll cover everything you need to know...



Your 30 Day Plan To Lose Weight, Boost Brain Health And Reverse Disease

Are you tired of feeling tired, overweight, and unhealthy? Do you wish there was a way to lose weight, boost your brain health, and reverse disease without having to...