Ball pythons should be housed alone in a large terrarium that corresponds to their size. A juvenile ball python can live in a 20-gallon tank, whereas an adult ball python should be in a 40-gallon tank or larger. Regardless of size, the terrarium should include a lockable lid.

Since ball pythons are reptiles, their terrarium should contain a cool side and a warm side to allow them to regulate their body temperatures. A thermometer should be placed on each side of the habitat and a hygrometer should be placed in the middle to provide information on humidity. A high-wattage heat bulb can be placed directly above the high point in the terrarium for the snake to bask in during the day. For evenings, the heat bulb should be turned off and a ceramic under-tank heater or night heat lamp can be used to maintain proper nighttime temperatures. Their habitat also needs to provide areas to hide and branches or decor for the python to climb on. The ground of the terrarium needs to be covered in substrate such as aspen shavings or reptile bark that is cleaned weekly with a 3% bleach solution.

It is important that when feeding a ball python, you feed in a separate tank from their regular terrarium so as not to create an association with feeding with either your hand or their home habitat. Adult pythons eat every one to two weeks and juveniles eat once or twice a week. Their diet consists of appropriately sized frozen rodents that have been thawed to above room temperature. A word of caution, never leave your snake alone with a live rodent to decrease the risk of injury.