

Carpet Python - *Morelia spilota* sp.



General Information

Distribution — Various subspecies of this snake are found throughout most of Australia and New Guinea. The more brightly coloured specimens (referred to as 'Jungle Carpets') are found in northern Australia. While darker, but still attractive specimens are found in mostly in the central and southern parts of its habitat.

Habitat — Carpet pythons are found in a variety of different habitats ranging from grasslands and wooded savannahs as with the Southern Carpet Python (*Morelia spilota imbricata*) to the tree perches of the Jungle and Coastal Carpet pythons (*Morelia spilota cheynei* and *mcdowellii*) in heavily forested Australian subtropical rainforests.

Adult Size — The smallest carpet python is the Jungle Carpet, which is typically between 140 cm and 200 cm (4' 6" to 6' 6"). Southwestern Carpets generally reach lengths of 170 cm to 190 cm (5' 6" to 6' 3"), and Coastal carpets between 180 and 250cm (6' to 8') . However, Coastal carpets have been known to reach lengths of 14 feet. Hatchling carpets of the three species listed above have a total length of approximately 42 cm.

Temperament — As with most partially arboreal snakes, carpets can be a little high strung. When young, carpet pythons are highly sensitive to potential threats. Translation, you may get bitten a few times when the animal is young. As time passes, you will learn to 'read' the snake's reaction to you and it will learn that you are not a threat. Translation, you won't get bitten as often!!!!

Longevity — Carpet pythons typically live to be between 20 and 30 years old in captivity