Pueblan Milksnake

Lampropeltis triangulum campbelli

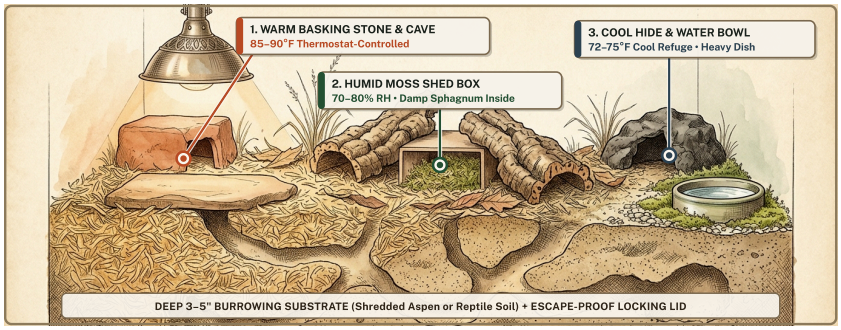
The Quick Version: Sporting bold ruby-red, jet-black, and cream-white rings (harmlessly copying venomous coral snakes so birds leave them alone!), Pueblan Milksnakes are hardy, manageable 3-foot snakes from rocky Mexican hillsides that eat like champions.



LIFESPAN	ADULT SIZE	ACTIVE HOURS	ADULT TANK	RULE #1
15–22+ Years	2.5–3.5 Feet	Dusk & Night	40-Gal Breeder	Strictly 1 / Tank!

1. Escape-Proof Tank & Warm-to-Cool Setup

STRICTLY SOLO (THEY EAT OTHER SNAKES!) + TIGHT-LOCKING LID



Warm Hide / Basking Spot Regulated by a digital thermostat	85°–88°F
Warm Side Air Temp Comfortable Mexican hillside warmth	80°–84°F
Humid Moss Cave Keep damp sphagnum moss inside for smooth sheds	70–80% RH
Cool Side & Tank Air Dry, breezy room air with a heavy water bowl	70°–75°F | 40–55%
Nighttime Temp Drop Lights off at night	66°–72°F

2. Two Ways That Work — Pick What Fits Your Home

SHORT & SWEET: BOTH OPTIONS WORK GREAT

Heating: Belly Heat Mat vs. Overhead Bulb

Milksnakes are secretive burrowers that digest fast when given a steady 85–88°F warm zone:

OPTION A: UNDER-TANK HEAT MAT + DIGITAL THERMOSTAT (OUR TOP PICK)

Because Milksnakes spend most of the day tucked under flat caves, belly heat on a thermostat set to 86°F works like a charm.

OPTION B: 50W–75W BASKING BULB OR DEEP HEAT PROJECTOR

Warms a flat rock and the air above it — great for 20-gallon and 40-gallon glass tanks.

Bedding: Shredded Aspen vs. Reptile Soil/Cypress

Give your Milksnake 3–4 inches of loose bedding to tunnel through:

OPTION A: SHREDDED ASPEN SNAKE BEDDING

Stays dry, holds tunnels well, and makes their bright red-black-white bands pop!

OPTION B: REPTILE SOIL OR CYPRESS MULCH MIX

Awesome for naturalistic tanks and holding steady humidity in winter — pair with **Powder Orange/Blue** or **Dalmatian (P. scaber) Isopods + Springtails** for bioactive cleanup!

Lighting: Shade UVB vs. Simple LED

Since whole mice already supply 100% of their calcium and Vitamin D3, either lighting option works:

OPTION A: LOW-OUTPUT SHADE UVB (5%–7%)

Makes their crimson and cream rings glow and encourages dusk exploring.

OPTION B: SIMPLE DAY/NIGHT ROOM OR LED LIGHT

Works great as long as they get a clear day/night cycle and pitch darkness at night.

Flip Over for Page 2: Feeding Schedule, Team Tips & Grab-and-Go Checklist →

3. Feeding Guide (Frozen/Thawed Mice)

AWESOME EATERS! PICK A MOUSE 1 TO 1.25× AS WIDE AS YOUR SNAKE'S MID-BODY

Babies Every 5–7 Days	**1 Thawed Pinky to Small Fuzzy Mouse:** Babies burn calories fast! Step up to fuzzies as soon as a pinky disappears without leaving a belly bump after 24 hrs.
Sub-Adults Every 7–10 Days	**1 Hopper to Weaned Mouse:** Thaw in the fridge, warm up in a sealed Ziploc bag (~98°F; never microwave or refreeze), and offer with tongs.
Adults Every 10–14 Days	**1 Adult Mouse:** Feeding one adult mouse every 10–14 days keeps adult Milksnakes lean and healthy.

Big Rules for Milksnake Keepers:

1. NEVER House Together!
- Kingsnakes & Milksnakes eat other snakes — 100% solo!

2. Use Feeding Tongs
- Milksnakes love food and will eagerly charge dinner

3. Wash Hands First
- Don't handle your snake right after touching mice

4. 48-Hr Digestion Nap
- Leave them alone for 2 full days after every meal

Taming 'Zippy' Babies: In the wild, a baby Milksnake is a colorful noodle that everything wants to eat — so babies can be wiggly, buzz their tail tip in dry leaves like a tiny rattlesnake, or musk when first scooped up. Don't worry! Two calm 10-minute hand-walking sessions a week turns them into total sweethearts.

4. Tips, Tricks & Big No-Nos from Our Reptile Team

REAL-WORLD HABITS THAT KEEP THEM THRIVING

Strictly One Per Tank!
All Kingsnakes and Milksnakes (*Lampropeltis*) are natural snake-eaters in the wild. Never put two snakes in the same tank or hold two snakes at the same time!

Clip That Screen Lid
They have strong, wedge-shaped noses built for prying under rocks — always use metal screen clips or locking front doors.

Blue Eyes = Shed Week
When their eyes turn cloudy blue, skip handling and mist their moss cave daily until the old skin rolls off in one clean piece.

Flat Cork Bark Trick
Lay 1 or 2 flat slabs of natural cork bark right on top of the bedding — Milksnakes love wedging themselves flat under bark even more than dome caves!

5. Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

ASK US ON THE FLOOR — WE'LL HELP YOU MATCH EVERYTHING!

LOCKING TANK & BEDDING
- [ ] 20-Gal Long (Baby) or 40-Gal Breeder Terrarium
- [ ] Heavy-Duty Metal Screen Clips or Door Lock
- [ ] Shredded Aspen Snake Bedding OR Reptile Soil / Cypress Mulch
- [ ] Flat Cork Bark Slabs & Leafy Ground Clutter

HEATING & THERMOSTAT
- [ ] Digital Thermostat (Mandatory for All Heating Devices!)
- [ ] 50W–75W Basking Bulb / DHP OR Under-Tank Heat Mat
- [ ] Digital Thermometer & Hygrometer Gauge

CAVES, BOWL & MICE
- [ ] 2 Snug Caves (Warm & Cool) + Enclosed Humid Moss Cave
- [ ] Sphagnum Moss (for inside the humid shed box)
- [ ] Heavy Ceramic Water Dish + Water Dechlorinator
- [ ] Stainless Steel Feeding Tongs + Frozen Mice

A Quick Note from Our Team — Keep Learning & Ask Us Anytime!

The quick version: there's more than one right way to set up a great enclosure! As long as your temperatures, humidity, and diet are dialed in, your pet doesn't care whether its cave is fancy resin or a terra-cotta pot. Bringing home this critter is a **15–22+ year commitment** — use these two pages as your home-base cheat sheet, watch what your pet tells you with their daily behavior, find a good local exotic vet, and call or stop by the shop anytime you have questions!

MY MILKSNAKE'S INFO

Name / Morph: _____

Current Diet: _____

Date Adopted: _____