INSIDE FLAP • KEEPER HABITS

4 Keys to Long-Term Health

Small Daily Habits That Prevent 95% of Vet Visits

Don't Flinch at the Hiss!

Babies put on a big show flattening their neck and bluff-poking with their nose. If you pull your hand away every time they hiss, they learn hissing works! Scoop calmly from underneath and they chill right out.

Keep the Bedding Dry!

Wet or humid tanks give prairie hognoses belly scale blisters fast. Keep tank humidity at 30–50% and only put damp moss inside an enclosed shed box.

Protect That Cute Snout

Because they push with their nose, make sure your lid is clipped tight so they don't rub their upturned snout raw against loose wire.

Flat Cork Bark Slabs

Besides regular caves, lay 2 flat pieces of cork bark right on top of the aspen — hognoses love sleeping pancaked under flat bark!

About Those 'Rear Fangs': Western Hognoses almost never bite defensively (they just hiss and bluff with a closed mouth!). However, they do have enlarged back teeth and mild toad-hunting saliva. If you forget to wash mouse smell off your hands and let a hungry hognose *chew* on your finger, your hand can swell up like a bee sting — so wash hands and use tongs at dinner time!

BACK COVER • TAKE THIS TO THE AISLE

Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

TANK & DEEP DIGGING BEDDING

- [ ] 10–20G Long (Baby/Male) or 36"×18" (Adult Female) Terrarium
- [ ] Big Bag of Shredded Aspen Snake Bedding (for 3–5" depth!)
- [ ] Flat Cork Bark Slabs & Ground Leafy Clutter
- [ ] Heavy-Duty Screen Clips or Door Lock

BASKING HEAT & THERMOSTAT

- [ ] 50W–75W Basking Bulb + Ceramic Dome Fixture
- [ ] Digital Thermostat (Mandatory for All Heating Devices!)
- [ ] Digital Thermometer & Hygrometer Gauge

SNUG CAVES, DISH & MICE

- [ ] 2–3 Small Snug Caves + Enclosed Humid Moss Box
- [ ] Small Heavy Water Dish + Water Dechlorinator
- [ ] Feeding Tongs + Frozen Pinky / Fuzzy / Hopper Mice

MY HOGNOSE'S INFO & FEEDING LOG

Name / Morph: _____

Gotcha Date & Weight: _____

Current Feeder Size & Day: _____

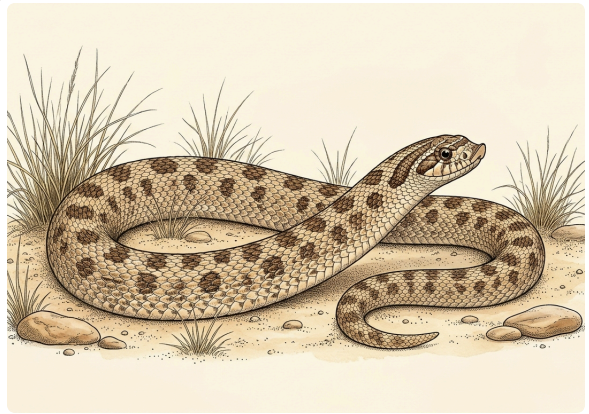
Critter Cabana & Cascade Pet Supply

Questions about heating, shedding, or a picky eater? Stop by or call our reptile team anytime — we're here for the full 15–20 year commitment!

CRITTER CABANA & CASCADE PET SUPPLY • CARE GUIDE

Western Hognose Snake

Heterodon nasicus



The Quick Version: Western Hognoses have the cutest upturned 'piggy snout' for shoveling through prairie dirt — and they are total drama queens! When a baby hognose is feeling sassy, it'll flatten its neck like a tiny pancake, hiss like a leaky tire, and even roll over to play dead without ever trying to bite!

QUICK VITAL STATS AT-A-GLANCE

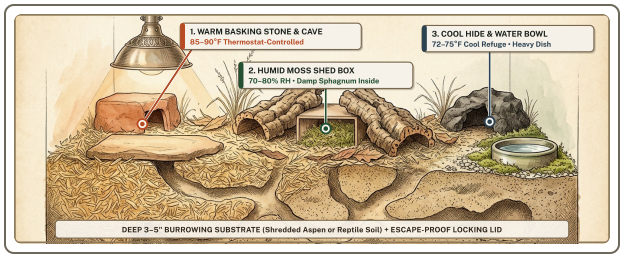
LIFESPAN **15–20 Years**	ADULT SIZE **M: 15–20" / F: 24–32"**
ACTIVE HOURS **Daytime (Diurnal)**	ADULT TANK **20L (M) / 40B (F)**
HUMIDITY **30–50% RH (Dry!)**	

OPEN FOR TANK SETUP, TEMPS, FEEDING & SHOPPING LIST →

STEP 1 • HABITAT & CLIMATE

Deep Digging Bedding & Sunny Basking Spot

3–5" of Fluffy Digging Bedding + Dry Air (30–50%) + Lots of Clutter!



Warm Basking Spot Measured on a flat rock under the basking bulb	**90°–93°F**
Warm Cave Interior Daytime hunters with fast metabolisms need warmth!	**84°–88°F**
Keep Tank Air Dry! 30–50% room air; put damp moss ONLY inside a shed box	**30–50% RH**
Cool Side Temp Shaded cool end with a small water dish	**72°–76°F**
Nighttime Temp Drop Lights off at night; normal room temp drop	**65°–72°F**

Thermostat & Gauge Rule: Stick-on dial gauges can be off by 10°F+! Use a digital probe thermometer/hygrometer and always plug heating mats and heat emitters into a **digital thermostat**.

STEP 2 • STOCKED STORE OPTIONS

Two Ways That Work

Pick Option A or Option B Based on Your Home Setup

Bedding: Shredded Aspen vs. Prairie Soil-Sand Mix

Hognoses spend half their day plowing tunnels with their upturned nose — give them 3–5 inches to dig in!

OPTION A: SHREDDED ASPEN SNAKE BEDDING (OUR FAVORITE)
Holds fluffy tunnels like magic, stays bone-dry to prevent belly scale rot, and makes finding dropped pinky mice and poop super easy.

OPTION B: 70% DRY REPTILE SOIL + 30% FINE SAND MIX
Great if you want a natural prairie look! Just let the soil dry out first so your hognose isn't sitting on wet dirt.

Don't Put Babies in a Giant Empty Tank!

Little baby hognoses (especially boys!) will refuse food if they feel exposed in a huge open tank:

OPTION A: CLUTTERED 10- TO 20-GAL TANK FOR BABIES
Cover the bedding with flat cork bark pieces, fake leaves, and 3 tiny hides so your baby can sneak across the tank without being seen.

OPTION B: SIZE UP AS THEY GROW
Males stay pint-sized (15–20") and love a 20-Gallon Long for life; females get twice as chunky (24–32") and step up to a 36"×18" tank.

Daytime Lighting (Standard & Albino Morphs)

Hognoses are daytime hunters that come alive under gentle overhead light:

OPTION A: 50W–75W HALOGEN BULB + LEAFY SHADE
Gives them a 90°F sunbeam with cork flats and plants underneath (especially helpful for red-eyed Albino morphs that prefer dappled shade!).

OPTION B: BASKING BULB + LOW-OUTPUT SHADE UVB (5%–6%)
Brings out their natural prairie colors and morph patterns while supporting daytime activity and appetite.

STEP 3 • DIET & NUTRITION

Feeding Guide & Rear-Fanged Etiquette

Fast Daytime Metabolism: Feed Smaller Meals More Often Than Pythons!

Babies Every 4–5 Days	**1 Thawed Pinky Mouse:** Hognoses have tiny necks compared to pythons — pick prey no wider than their head!
Sub-Adults Every 5–7 Days	**1 Fuzzy Mouse (or 2 Pinkies):** Always offer mice with feeding tongs rather than bare fingers.
Adults Every 7–10 Days	**Males: 1 Hopper/Small Mouse • Females: 1 Adult Mouse:** Adult boys stay small and often take a winter food break if temps dip.

Tricks for a Picky Baby Hognose:

- **1. Drop-Feed on a Lid:** Many shy babies won't strike tongs — leave the warm pinky on a plastic lid!
- **2. Tuna / Salmon Scenting:** Dip the mouse nose in water-packed tuna or salmon juice — works like magic!
- **3. Always Use Tongs:** Keeps your fingers from smelling like dinner
- **4. Keep Basking at 92°F:** Cooling dips in autumn tell their brain it's winter nap time

First-Week Rule: Give your new Western Hognose Snake **5 to 7 days of peace and quiet** in its new tank before handling or offering its very first meal so it can map out its hides and feel safe!