

CARING FOR YOUR CHECKERED GARTER SNAKE

Scientific Name: *Thamnophis marcianus marcianus*
Native to: North America
Maximum Length: Females 2-3 ft Males 1-2 ft
Life Span: Up to 15 years



CHARACTERISTICS:

Our Checkered Garter Snakes are captive bred right here at Reptiles by Mack. In nature, Checkered Garter Snakes are found throughout Texas. These snakes are water dwellers. Make sure you provide a secure enclosure because they can flatten their bodies and squeeze through the tiniest holes. Unlike most snakes, Checkered Garter Snakes give birth to live young.

CARE TIPS:

Enclosure: A single Checkered Garter Snake can be housed in a 10 gallon or 20 gallon terrarium, depending on the size of the snake. These snakes are known as escape artists so make sure the enclosure has an escape-proof lid. A group of Checkered Garter Snakes can be housed together.

Substrate: Provide a deep substrate as Checkered Garters like to burrow into the substrate. You can use a mixture of 1/2 play sand and 1/2 coconut fiber or peat moss, aspen shavings, Sani-chips, sphagnum moss, or sterile potting soil. Keep the substrate dry.

Habitat: Checkered Garter Snakes love to climb, so provide branches. A hiding spot is also recommended. You can either use cork bark or a hide box. Provide a water bowl for swimming.

Temperature and Lighting: Temperature should range from 65° F on the cool side to 85° F on the warm end. Use an under tank heater as a primary heat source. Provide your Checkered Garter snake with 8-12 hours of light daily. Do not leave white light on at all times. To view your snake at night use a black or infrared light.

Food and Water: Provide a large bowl of fresh chlorine-free or spring water. Checkered Garter Snakes will eat frozen thawed rodents, night crawlers, and rosy red minnows. An exclusive diet of fish should be avoided as this will cause a Vitamin B1 deficiency. Frozen/thawed rodents, such as **Mack's Natural Reptile Food Frozen Rodents**, are always best because live rodents may harm your snake. Feed your Checkered Garter Snake once or twice a week depending on the food and the size of the snake. Babies will need to be fed more often than adults.