



Captive husbandry of Copperheads.

While this paper isn't about this, the basics are worth noting.

Put simply it is as for other elapids (or pythons for that matter).

Wild-caught snakes are usually riddled with parasites and must be treated aggressively for them. Captive-bred young do well, graduating from assist to voluntary feeding readily

and usually within a few months of birth, becoming ravenous within a year. Adults take mice readily.

Housing is best in a rack system as shown above. Caging itself is sparse, clean and with hide, heat at the opposite end to the water (via "heat mat") and the water bowl is unspillable. Plastic tubs work well. See image at top right. Copperheads are generally not aggressive to humans, but are to one another and other snakes. Hence should be housed individually.

As for other snakes, these snakes do not like to be stick-handled and free handling is best for the snake's welfare if one ignores risks to the handler. The specimens shown on the next page are "venomoid" and hence harmless.





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