

Black Pine Animal Sanctuary

Animal Facts

Breed: BALL PYTHON

Names / Sex / Age:

Wilson Male 11

Previous Home: A private home, adopted by Black Pine in winter of 2003.

Native to: West & Central Africa. Bred in captivity in the United States, & imported (approximately 60,000 annually) to the United States. Virtually all are exported from the countries of Togo and Ghana.

Size: Normally 4 feet, can reach 5-6 feet, but rarely do. Average 10 pounds, but can weigh over 30.

Life Expectancy: 20 - 30 years. One recorded, lived 48 years!

Diet: Amphibians, lizards, other snakes, birds, and mammals. At Black Pine, fed small frozen rats, about 3-4 inches in length.

Facts:

- Ball Pythons get there name from their natural instinct to curl tightly into a ball
- Also called Royal Python, in the U.K.
- Ball pythons, like all pythons, are nocturnal
- Ball pythons are curious, gentle, and unlikely to bite a human handler, making it one of the most popular species of snakes kept as pets
- Pythons cannot un-hinge their jaws to eat their prey, so feeding something to big, can hurt them
- When a python kills, it so quickly wraps itself around its prey to choke it that the prey has no time to react
- Almost all snakes are known to “yawn” to re-align their jaws, but ball pythons are known to do it for no particular reason
- Ball pythons are reputed to be able to go for extended periods of time without food
- In captivity, a ball python will grow about a foot a year during the first 3 years

Personal History:

Wilson was adopted when displaced from a private home and his owners didn't want to sell him or not know his future fate.