

Black Pine Animal Sanctuary

Animal Facts

Breed: BURMESE PYTHON

Names / Sex / Age:

Kamar Male 16 years old

Previous Home: A private home.

Native to: Southeast Asia to Northeast India, Southern China and Islands in East Indies.

Size: Can reach 20 ft. in length, normally females. Males will reach 17 ft. in length. Both can weigh up to 200 lbs. Kamar currently is a little over 13 ft. long and weighs about 65 lbs.

Status: Threatened in the wild. Invasive populations are exploding in Florida due to private owners releasing their animals into the native habitats.

Life Expectancy: Can live 20-25 years in captivity. Average is around 22 years.

Diet: Amphibians, lizards, other snakes, birds, and mammals. At Black Pine, fed non-living rats or rabbits, about 7-8 inches in length.

Facts:

- Burmese pythons are one of the world's six largest snakes
- They are constrictors; they kill their prey by wrapping around it tightly and suffocating it
- Pythons have very sharp teeth that resemble hooks
- When snakes are ready to eat, they will bask in the sun to raise their body temperature enough to move around and catch prey. Once they have eaten, they will continue to bask in the sun so their food can digest. If their body temperature is not warm enough to digest food, a snake can die
- Breeding takes place in early spring where they lay 12-100 eggs
- Females are the only snake that can raise their own body temperature to aid in nesting and successfully producing hatchlings
- Burmese pythons have 400 sets of ribs
- Most snakes only have 1 long thin lung, however pythons have 2, one larger than the other
- Small heat pits in the upper lip allow them to detect heat radiations, therefore letting them know where prey is and if it's too big or just right for capturing
- Pythons have 2 rows of tail scales
- Pythons do not have to eat often. One python, once recorded, "fasted" for 149 days and only lost 10% of it's body weight
- Snakes have an anal claw where their legs once where
- For the first time in history, Florida established a hunting season to eradicate nonnative snakes from south Florida

Recent Personal History:

Kamar came to Black Pine in January 2005. His previous owner cared for him for 10 years, but Kamar outgrew his accommodations, and his handler!. At Black Pine, a handling protocol was established that requires a minimum of two handlers due to Kamar's length and weight. At last measure he was over 13' long.