Snake Vet Visit and Health Log Checklist

> **Companion Reference Sheet for:** Snake Vet Near Me: Shedding, Feeding, and Respiratory Checks
> Save this PDF to your phone or print a copy for field reference. This sheet does not replace an exam by a veterinarian. If your pet is in distress, call a vet now.

Key Takeaways

- Ask how often a clinic treats snakes like yours, what tests it can perform, and how staff safely handle large constrictors. General dog and cat experience does not confirm snake experience.
- A missed meal or one incomplete shed does not automatically mean illness. Weight loss, repeated regurgitation, eye problems, or other changes alongside them warrant veterinary advice.
- Open mouth breathing, wheezing, mucus, or bubbles around the mouth or nostrils need prompt veterinary contact. Do not wait to see whether these signs pass.
- Bring temperature and humidity readings, enclosure details, prey information, and care logs. Husbandry details often help explain a problem.
- Use our directory of exotic pet veterinarians to find nearby options, then call to confirm the clinic treats your snake's species and needs.
- This guide is educational. It does not replace an examination by a veterinarian.

How to Find a Veterinarian Who Treats Snakes

Exam component	What the veterinarian assesses	Why it matters
Weight and body condition	Current weight, body shape, and changes from earlier records	Trends can help identify weight loss or changes that a single measurement may not show.
Mouth and glottis	Oral tissues, the glottis, and signs such as inflammation or abnormal material	Mouth changes can point to a problem that needs further assessment.
Eyes and spectacles	Clarity, discharge, and whether spectacles appear normal	Eye changes and retained spectacles need a closer look, especially when they persist.
Skin, scales, and mites	Shed quality, skin condition, lesions, and external parasites	Skin findings can help explain incomplete shedding, irritation, or parasite concerns.
Vent and palpation	The vent and the body for visible or palpable abnormalities	These checks add information about the snake's overall physical condition.
Fecal testing and bloodwork	Fecal samples for parasites; bloodwork when the history or exam supports it	Testing can help investigate a concern rather than relying on appearance alone.

Shedding Trouble, Eye Caps, and Enclosure Conditions

Observed sign	Recommended urgency	What to tell the clinic
Open mouth breathing, wheezing, mucus, or bubbles around the mouth or nostrils	Contact a veterinarian promptly and arrange a same day assessment.	When the sign began, whether it is constant, and any recent changes in temperature or humidity.
Severe breathing difficulty, marked weakness, collapse, or rapidly worsening signs	Seek emergency veterinary care.	Describe the change and its timing, the snake's species, and any recent feeding or regurgitation.
New breathing noise or discharge without obvious distress	Call for veterinary advice rather than waiting for it to pass.	Share a clear video if it can be taken safely, along with enclosure readings and recent symptoms.

Checklist Before You Call or Travel

☐ **Identify your snake:** Note its species, age if known, and when you acquired it.

☐ **Write down the timeline:** Record recent weights, feeding and shedding dates, when symptoms began, and any regurgitation or behavior changes.

☐ **Measure the enclosure:** Bring warm side and cool side temperatures, humidity readings, enclosure size, and substrate details.

☐ **Describe the diet:** Record prey type and size, feeding dates, and any recent changes.

☐ **Bring visual records:** Take clear photos or video of symptoms and bring your feeding and shed logs.

☐ **Plan safe transport:** Ask the clinic about a secure transport container and how to support the snake and maintain a suitable temperature during travel. Do not let the snake move loose in a vehicle.

☐ **Discuss recent arrivals:** Share acquisition history and ask whether separation from your other reptiles is appropriate while health concerns are assessed.

For a new snake, bring any available history about its previous home, diet, and health care. Measurements and dated notes help your veterinarian compare what is happening now with your snake's usual pattern.

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