

GREEN TREE PYTHON

The 10-Point Enclosure Checklist



Free Practical Guide | Gonzo Exotics

TOMASZ GONSIOR

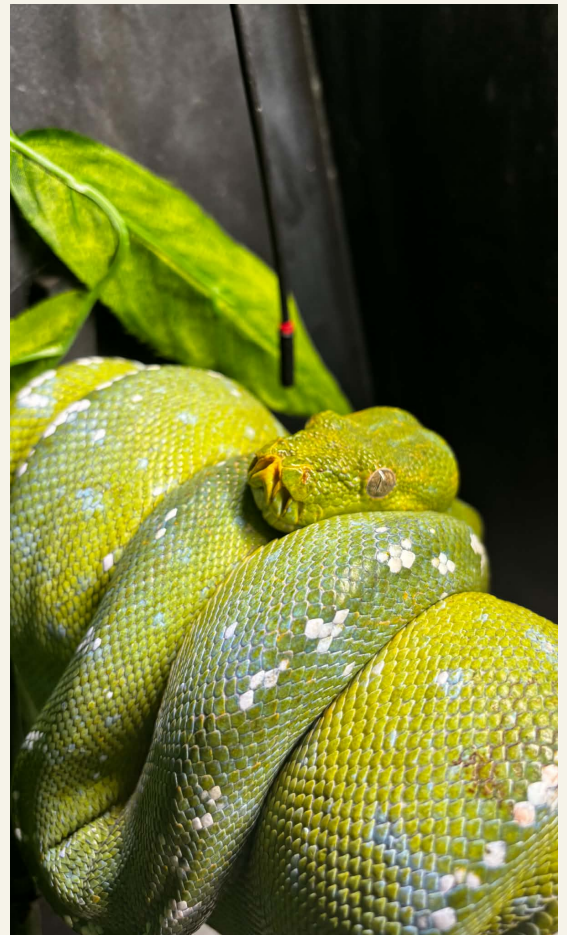
An enclosure that works.

BEGIN WITH THE ANIMAL

A green tree python may spend much of the day resting on a perch. That stillness makes it easy to overlook the choices its enclosure should provide: where to warm up, where to withdraw, how to move and where to drink.

This guide is a practical self-audit for new and established keepers. It helps you review the environment the snake can actually use, beyond the appearance of the enclosure or a single hygrometer reading.

Perches, cover, temperature, moisture and access for daily care work together. A convincing setup needs those parts to function as a system.



A resting coil is one moment in a daily pattern.

A FIRST LOOK AT THE FULL SUBJECT

The forthcoming *GREEN TREE PYTHONS: Morelia viridis and Morelia azurea* goes further into biology, informed husbandry, health, breeding, incubation, raising juveniles, locality and regional profiles, and long-term care.

Scope: for green tree python keepers, including animals traditionally sold as *Morelia viridis*. The full book distinguishes *M. viridis* and *M. azurea*. These are practical checks, not universal climate targets or a diagnostic test. Photographs illustrate the collection; they do not certify every detail of a setup.

A good enclosure helps the snake choose.

Look from perch level. Review the full day-night cycle, then compare the setup with the animal's usual behaviour. Tick each topic after checking it; use the notes below to record what needs attention. Click a topic to open its page.

DONE	CHECK	PAGE
☐	01 Perch placement	04
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MY NEXT USEFUL CHANGE

HOW I WILL CHECK THE RESULT

Date: _____ Recheck: _____

Function matters more than decoration.

Give the snake real options.



Photograph: Tomasz Gonsior / Gonzo Exotics.



01 Place perches for use

A branch earns its place when the snake can reach it, rest on it and leave it safely. Height is useful only when the available space supports movement and comfortable resting positions.

WHAT TO CHECK

Trace the routes between resting places. Check body clearance, access to water and the closest approach to heat sources. Allow room to move and extend beyond the resting coil.

COMMON MISTAKE

Installing one photogenic perch high in an otherwise empty enclosure.

KEEPER'S TIP

Sketch places and connecting routes before choosing decorations. Recheck the layout as the snake grows.

02 Offer meaningful choices

Several branches do not necessarily create several options. Useful alternatives differ in warmth, exposure or shelter while remaining stable, accessible and suitable for resting.

WHAT TO CHECK

Provide usable resting places in warmer and cooler zones, with access to cover. Verify the conditions at each location through the day and night.

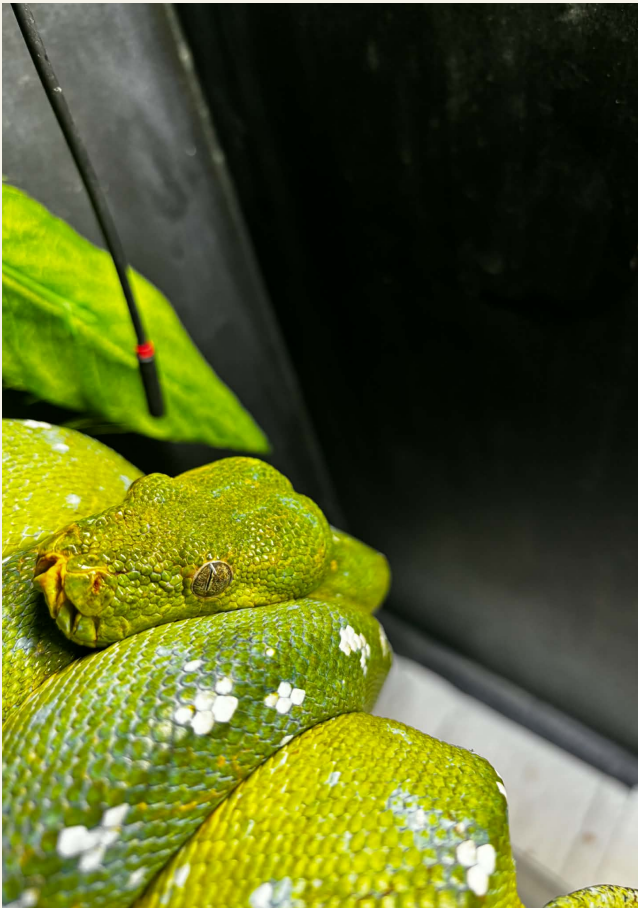
COMMON MISTAKE

Putting every comfortable branch beneath the same heater, with the only cover at the opposite extreme.

KEEPER'S TIP

Compare the conditions at two resting places the animal can actually use. A gradient in an inaccessible corner offers no choice.

Measure where the snake rests.



Sensor position and the resting place need context.

The thermostat setting describes the controller, not the entire enclosure. A wall-mounted sensor may miss the conditions around a resting coil, especially beneath a radiant heater.

WHAT TO CHECK

Use independent monitoring near warmer and cooler resting places. Record location, method, time and day-night extremes. Check accessible perch surfaces separately from nearby air.

COMMON MISTAKE

Calling an infrared surface reading an air temperature, or treating a reading through glass as the temperature behind it.

KEEPER'S TIP

Name your locations: warm-perch air, cool-perch air and perch surface. Recheck after moving a branch, heater or control probe.

AIR

A nearby sensor describes local air conditions, within the limits of its placement and accuracy.

SURFACE

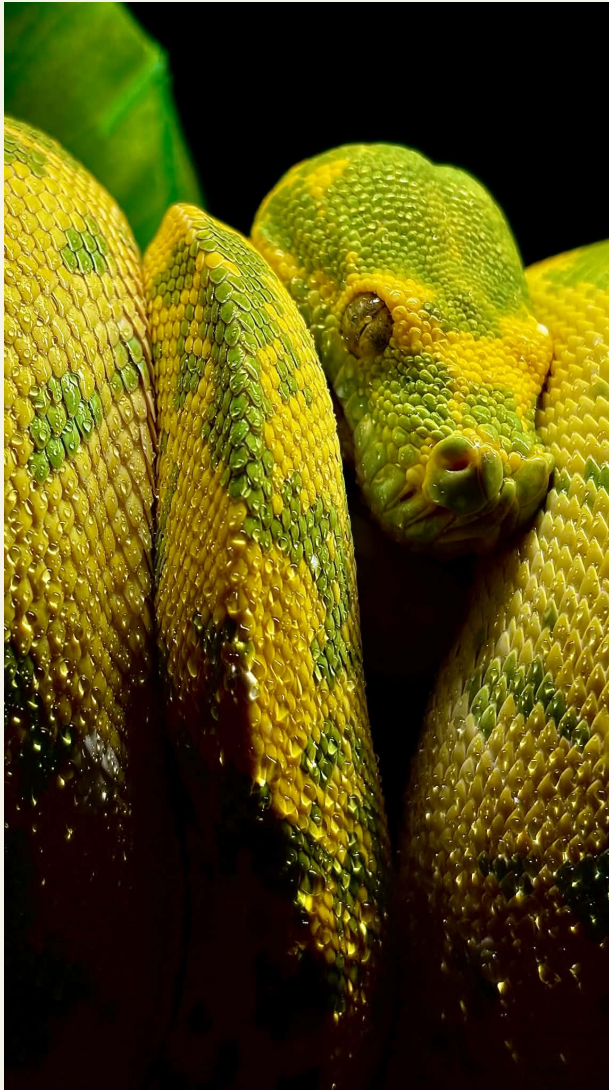
An infrared thermometer measures a surface. Target size, material and distance affect the result.

CONTROL

The thermostat responds to its own probe. Confirm the resulting conditions independently.

A reading becomes useful when you know what it measures.

Humidity is only part of the picture.



Visible droplets describe surface wetness, not hydration.

Relative humidity is a temperature-dependent air measurement. It does not show whether the snake has drunk, whether a perch is wet or whether water is collecting beneath the substrate.

WHAT TO CHECK

Read temperature and RH together. Inspect surfaces before misting, afterward and later in the cycle. Keep air routes open and check hidden wet corners, drainage and sensor exposure to spray.

COMMON MISTAKE

Sealing vents or adding more spray to maintain one high percentage while surfaces stay wet.

KEEPER'S TIP

Adjust water input to observed drying. Let wetted surfaces dry between sessions without removing drinking water or making every microhabitat excessively dry.

THREE DIFFERENT QUESTIONS

Air: what are temperature and RH doing?

Surfaces: where does water remain, and for how long?

Drinking: is clean water accessible throughout the cycle?

Shelter. Grip. Stable support.



Photograph: Tomasz Gonsior / Gonzo Exotics.



05 Make shelter usable

A resting place can be structurally sound yet leave the snake exposed to light, movement and repeated disturbance. Cover should offer a retreat without blocking travel or fresh air.

WHAT TO CHECK

View the enclosure from perch level. Offer sheltered resting options across suitable temperature zones. Inspect foliage, gaps and fittings for sharp edges or entrapment hazards.

COMMON MISTAKE

Adding dense decoration around a single exposed branch, or making the only sheltered position too cool.

KEEPER'S TIP

Observe quietly before opening the doors. Change cover thoughtfully; repeated rearrangement makes the animal's response harder to interpret.

06 Support the whole animal

Perch diameter, texture and mounting work together. A useful support allows a secure grip and comfortable draping; a single standard pipe size cannot suit every age and body size.

WHAT TO CHECK

Assess body support and movement. Offer safe diameter choices. With the snake elsewhere, check mounts for rotation, bending or accidental release, and inspect for splinters and exposed fixings.

COMMON MISTAKE

Assuming a perch is suitable because the animal uses it when no alternative exists.

KEEPER'S TIP

A removable perch still needs secure retention. Plan how maintenance will preserve support before releasing any mount.

Water access. Safe warmth.



Photograph: Tomasz Gonsior / Gonzo Exotics.



07 Keep water within reach

Clean drinking water must remain available independently of misting. Droplets on leaves and a full misting reservoir do not replace an accessible bowl.

WHAT TO CHECK

Keep the bowl stable and easy to reach. Inspect it daily and replace contaminated water promptly. Clean the bowl routinely and service reservoirs, tubing and nozzles separately.

COMMON MISTAKE

Placing water beneath a frequent fouling spot, then overlooking contamination because the water looks clear from the front.

KEEPER'S TIP

Provide access even if you rarely witness drinking. A falling water level may also reflect evaporation or spillage.

08 Make heat safe to approach

An arboreal snake can reach fittings beyond its daytime coil. Assess the full installation: guards, mounting, control and independent monitoring.

WHAT TO CHECK

Use a compatible thermostat and follow device instructions. Secure its probe. Prevent contact with hazardous hot surfaces, including guards, and protect electrics from water.

COMMON MISTAKE

Trusting a thermostat display without testing actual temperatures at the closest accessible positions.

KEEPER'S TIP

Before introduction, test complete cycles and safe operation after power restoration. Prepare an overheating response; a thermostat cannot cool a hot room.

Make observation part of care.



Photograph: Tomasz Gonsior / Gonzo Exotics.

09 Design for daily care

An enclosure should make routine care easy to repeat. Water changes and waste removal should not require dismantling the interior or disturbing the snake.

WHAT TO CHECK

Reach the bowl, substrate, vents and fittings without destabilising occupied perches or shifting probes. Check door closure after every visit. Keep a brief, reproducible record of maintenance and changes.

COMMON MISTAKE

Building a beautiful interior with inaccessible corners or assuming a bioactive setup cleans itself.

KEEPER'S TIP

Rehearse a normal cleaning routine before the snake arrives. Leave clear instructions for anyone covering its care.

10 Read the snake's response

Perch use, posture and movement add context to measurements. One meal or successful shed cannot prove that all conditions are suitable.

WHAT TO CHECK

Track resting sites, night-time activity, feeding, shedding, weight and body condition. Note changes in drinking or appearance that may warrant hydration assessment; compare with the individual's usual pattern.

COMMON MISTAKE

Treating a new location as proof of one cause, or dismissing deterioration because the readings look normal.

KEEPER'S TIP

Persistent appetite changes, weakness, breathing difficulty or suspected dehydration need a reptile veterinarian. Record changes before adjusting equipment.

Common Green Tree Python Enclosure Mistakes

Recognise the weak point. Make the correction specific.

- 01 One branch, no real choice**
Add usable resting positions and safe routes, rather than empty height.
- 02 Every perch in the same heat field**
Check warmer and cooler resting options, with shelter available.
- 03 A temperature without a location**
Label air, surface and control readings; record when and where.
- 04 Humidity treated as hydration**
Check drinking access, surface moisture and the animal separately.
- 05 Wetness maintained around the clock**
Inspect hidden accumulation and drying before adding more spray.
- 06 Ventilation sacrificed for a number**
Review water input, temperature and unobstructed air routes together.
- 07 Decoration before safe support**
Check grip, mounting, clearances and access for daily care.
- 08 Behaviour ignored or overinterpreted**
Compare with the individual's baseline, then investigate the change.

Fix an immediate hazard first. For routine improvements, record one change and review the result before making another.

This is only the beginning.

An enclosure is the foundation. Long-term keeping also means understanding biology and behaviour, feeding and body condition, health and prevention, breeding readiness, incubation and the care of young snakes.

The forthcoming book connects those subjects with locality and regional background, practical records and an evidence-aware approach to decisions.

102CHAPTER 08 | TEMPERATURE AND LIGHT

GONZO EXOTICS

DIAGRAM 07. Gonzo Exotics programme: measurement locations

01 Day: thermostat target 29°C
Control probe beside the usual resting perch.

02 Highest perch surface: about 31°C (IR)
Perch surface and nearby air must be distinguished.

03 Routine night: 24–25°C; seasonal target: 22°C
Separate upper thermometer: about 22.5°C in prior seasons.

Reported husbandry programme; not a measured daily curve.

Four temperatures that must not be confused

Thermostat setting, air temperature, surface temperature, and body temperature are different quantities. A thermostat responds at its probe's location. The snake may be nearer the heat source or under cover. A reading of '30°C' without a measurement location does not describe the complete environment.

With radiant heating, the body may receive energy differently from a shielded air sensor. An infrared thermometer measures surfaces and requires consideration of the target's properties; it does not replace an air thermometer. A measurement through glass may measure the glass rather than the snake. Do not treat it as a core body temperature measurement.

NATURE • KNOWLEDGE • RESPONSIBILITY

Preview: temperature and measurement, p. 102.

GONZO EXOTICS | PRACTICAL SUPPLEMENT

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Compact Husbandry Enclosure

For an appropriately small individual or temporary observation only. A 60 cm cube is not general adult housing; check body extension, movement, thermal choice and the planned duration.



Example of a simple breeding / utility enclosure.
60 × 60 × 60 cm · W × D × H · AI illustration, not to scale
Thermostat-controlled heating · ventilation · water

A • Warmer perch and adjacent air

Gonzo Exotics: 29°C thermostat target near the resting perch; about 31°C by IR on the highest accessible perch. These are different measurements.

B / C • Thermal choice and shelter

Offer cooler lower perches; measure each occupied zone independently. Keep clean water available and allow surfaces to dry.

Guarding, clearance and control

Prevent access to hot components from every route. Use manufacturer-specified protection and a secured thermostat probe; verify independently before housing a snake.

NATURE • KNOWLEDGE • RESPONSIBILITY

Preview: practical enclosure planning, p. 235.

REAL PAGES FROM THE FORTHCOMING ENGLISH EDITION

From checking a perch to understanding a whole husbandry system.

SOURCES AND FURTHER READING

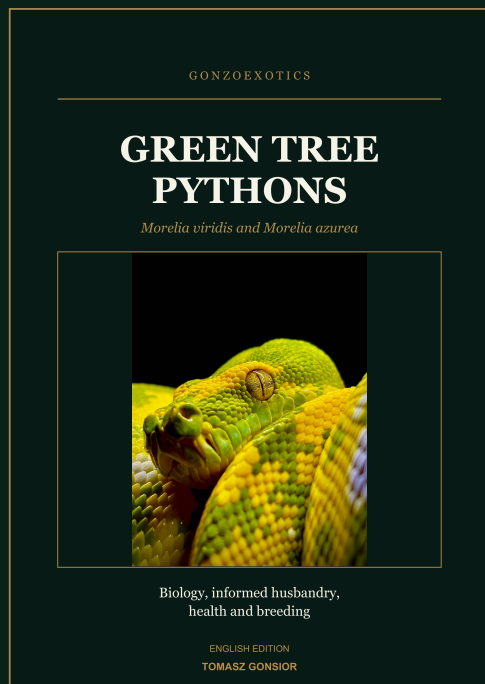
Practical guidance: Gonsior, T. *GREEN TREE PYTHONS: Morelia viridis and Morelia azurea*, forthcoming English edition, especially Chapters 7-12 and the Practical Supplement. The checklist is a practical synthesis, not a validated welfare score.

General safety and environmental principles: Divers, S. J. & Comolli, J. R. *Management and Husbandry of Reptiles*. Merck Veterinary Manual, updated July 2026. General reptile guidance; no species-specific numeric targets copied here. Accessed 20 October 2026.

THE FULL ENGLISH EDITION IS COMING SOON

GREEN TREE PYTHONS

Morelia viridis and Morelia azurea



295

PAGES

16

CHAPTERS

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LOCALITY & REGIONAL PROFILES

TOMASZ GONSIOR | GONZO EXOTICS

Biology.
Informed husbandry.
Health. Breeding.
Incubation.
Raising juveniles.
A practical supplement.

The complete *GREEN TREE PYTHONS* book is coming soon. I'll be sharing updates and announcing its release through my posts in English-speaking green tree python and reptile communities.

STAY CONNECTED WITH GONZO EXOTICS

Follow Gonzo Exotics for reptile photography, husbandry insights and updates.

Our Facebook community, Instagram and website currently feature mainly Polish-language content.

Updates on the upcoming English edition of *GREEN TREE PYTHONS* will also be shared in English-speaking reptile communities.

FACEBOOK COMMUNITY

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1570305001466011/>

INSTAGRAM

https://www.instagram.com/gonzo__terrystyka/

WEBSITE

<https://gonzoexotics.pl/>

The full English book is coming soon!