

It is not quite so important with pinkies, but as larger mice are fed, then it is important for your snake to swallow its meals head first if possible. There are two reasons for this - one, it is a lot easier to swallow head first - the mouse slides down better. The second is that there is a chance - though only very slight - that swallowing a mouse backwards will result in one of the mouse's claws scratching the inside of the snake's gullet, causing problems. However, if you see your snake start swallowing a mouse backwards, there is nothing much you can do about it - just watch.

**When to Feed and How Much**

To start with, a young hatchling will eat a pinky every five days or so. Gradually, as it gets bigger, this will ease out to six or seven days. Around the time the gap between feeds is up to seven days, it will be gobbling down a pinky in next to no time - so try it with another one a minute or two after it has finished swallowing the first one.



**You can tell he is going to be a laid back snake like his father.  
This is Jethro, a hatchling of Shaggy and Alice's, eating a pinky, tail first,  
while still wrapped around my fingers**

If it takes two pinkies okay, then continue feeding two pinkies each meal for two or three more feedings and then offer it one fuzzy instead of the two pinkies. You want to graduate your hatchling onto fuzzies as soon as he'll take them.