

 15-25 years

 5-8 feet

 Intermediate

 75-90° F

 Rodents



Boas have become popular due to being docile and having more “personality” than some other snakes. Boa constrictors can make great pets, and they are available in a vast array of appealing colors and pattern morphs. Proper care can be provided even by beginner hobbyists, but due to their potentially large size and lengthy life span, boas are best suited for moderate and advanced snake keepers. These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet. Please do your research and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

TANK SET UP

Boa constrictors must have a well-ventilated home, with space to roam and climb, as they are natural tree climbers. They need a warm/hot side, and a cool side. A minimum 20 gallon tank is recommended for young to sub-adult boas, while a larger tank is necessary for older boa constrictors. Females can reach a length of 6-8 ft, while males stay smaller at 5-6 ft.

BEDDING

Provide aspen or reptile carpet. Substrate must be cleaned regularly, and kept free from any debris. Daily spot clean under the water dish, as mold will grow, and provide a regular full clean as necessary.

TEMPERATURE

An ambient temperature of 80°F in the cage, with a cool side of 75°F and a hot spot of 90°F, is ideal for a boa constrictor. You can provide a hot spot in the cage, with an under-tank heater suitable for the size of the tank.

LIGHTING

You may use an overhead light to provide the proper temperatures for your boa, but overheating the animal is just as dangerous as having not enough heat. Try a day bulb for the day/night cycle, and use the under-tank heater to reach the desired temperature. If a basking bulb is necessary, be careful to regulate the temperature. Although UVB lighting has not proven to be necessary for boas, it is thought to be helpful for increasing appetite and general well-being.

HUMIDITY

The ideal humidity level for boa constrictors is between 60%-70%. Always have a large enough water dish in the enclosure for the snake to emerge, in cases of low humidity or shed cycle. Soak the boa once or twice a week, close to and during the shed cycle, to encourage hydration and a good shed.

FEEDING

Live or frozen/thawed mice or rats. Choose the size of the rodent depending on the size of the snake. Normally boa constrictors will eat every 10-14 days. ****Snakes being fed live rodents must be monitored closely, until the rodent is no longer a threat to the snake. A live mouse or rat can cause considerable damage to a snake if left unattended.**

CLEANING

Snakes are very easy to take care of. They leave messes in their tanks several days after they have eaten and digested their meals. Thoroughly clean the tank, replace soiled bedding, and wash all dishes and accessories.