Columbian Boa Care

Colombian Boas

Latin name: Boa constrictor

Native to: Central America, South America

Maximum length: 8-12 feet

Average life span: 20 years

**General Information on the Colombian Boa**

Boas are large snakes with a mellow temperament. They are generally nocturnal, meaning that they are most active at night, and like to sleep and rest during the day. They are excellent climbers that enjoy having wood and branches in their tanks. . These are great animals for someone who wants something large and impressive, but not overwhelmingly huge.

**Enclosure for the Colombian Boa**

Baby Boas can live in a 20-gallon reptile tank for about 1 year. Adults need a 55 gallon tank or larger. They are notorious escape artists, so provide a cage that has locking mechanisms. Plenty of ventilation is necessary to prevent respiratory infections. They also need a secure hiding place.

**Substrate for the Colombian Boa**

Boas appreciate a variety of substrates: Reptile bark, reptile carpet, or aspen shavings work very nicely. Do not use cedar shavings! Its oils are toxic to reptiles.

**Temperature and Humidity for the Colombian Boa**

Daytime temperatures are 84-90 degrees F. Do not let nighttime temperatures drop below 78 degrees F. A relative humidity of 40-50% can be achieved by misting your Boa with a water bottle sprayer for once a day.

**Heating**

Reptiles need to regulate their body temperature. The use of an Under Tank Heater (UTH) is recommended. The snake can move on and off the heat source as needed. A piece of cardboard should be pressure fit to the bottom of the tank to prevent the snake from burning himself on hot glass. Always use at least one thermometer to be certain the optimum temperature is reached.

**Lighting for the Colombian Boa**

The use of regular lighting during the day is good for the snakes’ well-being. UVB is not necessary.

**Food and Water for the Colombian Boa**

Pre-killed mice and rats should be the main food source for Boas. A single food item should not be larger than the snake’s widest part of his body. Hatchlings should be fed weekly, juveniles, every other week, and adults can eat every 3 weeks. Do not feed a snake in the living quarters. This will condition your snake to strike at your hands in hunger when entering the cage. Do not pick up the snake with the scent of other animals on your hands or clothing. Provide a large sturdy dish with fresh water. The dish should be large enough for the snake to fit hi whole body in. This is very important for the snake to properly shed.

**Recommended Items**

• Appropriately sized reptile tank

• Reptile bark, carpet or shavings

• UTH heater and day bulb/fixture

• Large, shallow water dish

• Thermometer and humidity gauge

• Grape vines, hiding den, artificial plants

• Mister / spray bottle

• Timer for daytime lights

• Vitamin/mineral supplement powder

• Container for feeding (large tote, aquarium)