

Boa Constrictor

Native to: Mexico to South America

Size: 8-12', 30-60 pounds. Females, as with most animals, are usually much larger than the males

Lifespan: 20-30 years

Enclosure: 8' long x 2-3' wide x 4' tall is ideal for an adult. I like to give my snakes plenty of room to move around and get exercise in their enclosure. Juveniles can be kept in smaller tanks, but keep in mind these snakes grow extremely fast, purchase or build the biggest enclosure you can afford, otherwise you will have to buy multiple tanks as the snake grows.

Temperature: Thermal Gradient, daytime 80-85, basking spot 95, nighttime 75-80

Feeding: Juveniles feed weekly, adults, large meals every 2-3 weeks. Feed food items that are no thicker than the thickest part of the snake's body. I prefer to feed all my snakes frozen / thawed. This is much safer for the snake and it is much easier for me to keep a freezer full of rodents. I prefer to feed all my snakes frozen / thawed. This is much safer for the snake and it is much easier for me to keep a freezer full of rodents.

Maintenance: Fresh water and spot cleaning daily

Furniture: Hide box, limbs/shelves for climbing, water bowl large enough to soak in. Keep in mind that if you take sticks and rocks from the wild, they must be boiled for 5 minutes or baked in the oven at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Make sure you know if any of the materials are toxic to your pet (i.e. cedar), and be certain it is not illegal to collect it from the wild!

* Boas are great snakes to keep; they generally have a very gentle, docile nature. Be certain when you purchase a large constrictor, or any snake, that you will be able to provide for it its entire life. Too many large snakes are bought and then dumped once they become too large for the owner to take care of it. These actions lead to euthanized snakes; they damage fragile ecosystems, and cause lawmakers to pass laws to try to ban these animals.