

Red Tail Boa Care Sheet

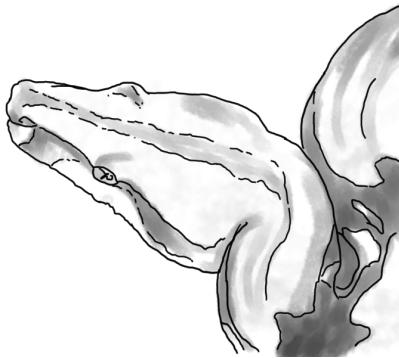


Your Pets Super Store

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Congratulations on your new pet. The Red Tail Boa can make an excellent pet for the beginner and expert alike, consistent handling help to keep this large snake friendly. These snakes are elegant beauties who require a large enclosure at adulthood. The Red Tail Boa can grow over ten feet in length at maturity and live 30 plus years in captivity, with the proper care.

HOUSING-----

These boas need a very large type tank or enclosure for a single snake at adulthood due to their large size. Aspen, bark or R-Zilla terrarium liner can be used for a substrate. Furnish the cage with branches for climbing. The enclosure should have at least two hides to allow the snake to choose more than one location. One should be on the hot side and the other on the cool side. You can put moist moss or bark in one of the hides to help with shedding. They will need a water bowl with clean water available to them at all times. Boas love fresh water! Having a water bowl also lends humidity to their environment which helps them to shed. Red Tail Boas need a humidity level of 40 to 60 percent.

HEATING AND LIGHT-----

In the day time, the hot end of the enclosure should be set at 90–95 degrees fahrenheit, and the cool end at about 78 degrees. At night, temperatures can be in the mid to low 70's. Use a thermometer to check the temperatures. An under tank heater and/or a ceramic heater can be used to maintain proper temperatures. Do not use heat rock inside the enclosure. Red Tail Boas are nocturnal and do not require UVB lighting. Place the cage in a room that gets natural light to give your snake the appropriate day/night cycle.

DIET-----

Adult Red Tail Boas can be fed on an appropriately sized rodent once every 7-10 days. The food offered should be roughly 1 to 1.5 times the thickness of the snake at the center of its length. Don't handle your boa for at least 24 hours after feeding to avoid stress and possible regurgitation. Juvenile boas will need up to twice as much food as adults in relation to their size, to accommodate growth. Juveniles will eat fuzzies or small mice and can progress to adult mice, and rats as they grow. Frozen rodents come in many different sizes and can be thawed out at feeding time. When using frozen feeders, DO NOT microwave or boil. The safest way to thaw them is to place them into a bowl of warm water until they are thawed and warm all the way through. Microwaves will leave hot spots inside and can burn your snake. Like most snakes, ball pythons may occasionally fast for a few

weeks when they have had enough food. As long as they are healthy and not losing a lot of weight, this is normal and nothing to be concerned about.

CLEANING-----

Your red tail boas enclosure should be spot checked for feces on a daily basis and cleaned out completely with Healthy Habitat disinfectant monthly. Clean the water dish daily and fill with fresh dechlorinated water. All cage furniture should also be disinfected and the substrate should be changed. If using cage carpet it can be washed and dried. It is most convenient to keep two carpets.

HEALTH-----

Always wash your hands before and after handling a reptile. A good maintenance and cleanliness regime is essential to ensure long term health for your boa.

FERTILITY-----

Consult one of our pet specialists.

CHECKLIST-----

- _____ 20 gallon long aquarium with a tight fitting screen top for one python for juvenile 40 gallon breeder for adult
- _____ large water bowl
- _____ cage carpet, aspen or bark substrate
- _____ branches for climbing
- _____ two hide houses
- _____ under tank heater
- _____ reptile safe cage cleaner