



Amazon Tree Boa

Corallus hortulanus

Care Sheet

Average Size

5 - 6 feet long

Average Lifespan

20+ years

Diet

Amazon Tree Boas are strict carnivores. They can eat either frozen or live prey items. Babies will start with new born pinky mice. An adult will eat adult mice. When feeding frozen prey, be sure the prey is thawed thoroughly. When feeding live prey, be sure to monitor the feeding to prevent the prey from attacking the snake.

Feeding

Feed babies 1 - 2 times a week. At 2-3 months of age you can reduce to once weekly. Adults can eat weekly, although some keepers feed every other week. The prey size should equal the largest part of the snake's body in girth.

Housing

Habitat - Amazon Tree Boas come from South America. They can be found from Northern South America to the Amazon Basin. In the wild they are found primarily perched in trees but occasionally coiled on the ground. Keep the cage warm and humid and provide plenty of branches for climbing. Amazon Tree Boas are best kept alone, although some people keep them in groups. If housed together snakes should be of similar size to avoid injury. Breeders generally keep Amazon Tree Boas in separate enclosures until breeding time. At that point, the breeder will house the snakes together.

Size - Amazon Tree Boas are a tree dwelling snake, and their cage should reflect a tree dwelling environment. An adult must have a minimum cage size of 36" Long x 18" Deep x 16" High, although many keepers prefer a larger cage. Babies can start in 10-gallon tanks.

Substrate - Due to humidity requirements, coconut fiber and peat moss are perfect substrates. These substrates hold humidity and are easy to clean. Since this species does not generally burrow, a thinner substrate of 2 - 4 inches is acceptable.

Temperature - Amazon Tree Boas require a basking spot of 85°- 90°F. The cool end of the tank can be as cool as 65°- 70°F. Proper temperature is extremely important with this species. If an Amazon Tree Boa becomes too cool for an extended period of time, they will quickly develop respiratory infections.

Humidity - Humidity levels should be between 60% - 80%.

Watering - Provide fresh drinking water daily. This species will sometimes soak their body in water. Provide a bowl of water large enough so that the snake can fully submerge its body.

Lighting - Since this is a nocturnal species, it requires only one light bulb. This is the heat lamp which also emits UVA. There is no current proof that the animal requires UVB light, although some keepers prefer to provide UVB.

Plant and Fish bulbs are not UVB bulbs.



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