



# Kenyan Sand Boa

*Gongylophis colubrinus*

## Care Sheet

### Average Size

1 - 2 feet long

### Average Lifespan

15 - 20 years

### Diet

Kenyan Sand 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 to weaned rats. 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 be equal to the largest part of the snake's body in girth.

### Housing

**Habitat** - Kenyan Sand Boas come from East Africa. In the wild they are found primarily underground. Keep the cage warm and dry and provide plenty of places for hiding. Kenyan Sand Boas may be kept alone or in groups. If housed together snakes should be of similar size to avoid injury. Breeders generally keep Sand Boas in separate enclosures until breeding time. At that point, the breeder will house the snakes together.

**Size** - An adult must have a minimum cage size of 30" Long x 12" Deep x 12" High, although many keepers prefer a larger cage. Babies can start in 10-gallon tanks.

**Substrate** - Ground walnut shell is a perfect substrate. Kenyan Sand Boas love to burrow. Ground walnut shell makes it easy for burrowing and cleaning. A sand / coconut fiber mix can also be used. Provide 3-6 inches of substrate.

**Temperature** - Kenyan Sand Boas require a basking spot of 90°- 95°F. The cool end of the tank can be as cool as 75°- 80°F. Proper temperature is extremely important with this species. If a Sand Boa becomes too cool for an extended period, they will quickly develop respiratory infections.

**Humidity** - Humidity levels should be between 30% - 40%.

**Watering** - Provide fresh drinking water daily. Boas like to 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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