



## Red-Tailed Boa

(boa constrictor constrictor)

### Facts:

Average adult size: **up to 10 feet long**  
 Average life span: **15+ years with proper care**  
 Diet: **Carnivore**



Red-Tailed Boas require a large area and need consistent interaction with humans to remain tame.

*Will reach adult size in 1-3 years, under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your snake grows.*

### Feeding & Nutrition:

#### Diet

- Appropriately sized frozen rodents, thawed/warmed to above room temperature.
- Do not use a microwave to defrost frozen rodents and do not prepare them in the same area that you prepare food. If it is unavoidable, be sure to thoroughly disinfect the area.
- If feeding your snake live rodents, do not leave them unattended. Live rodents can injure the snake, sometimes fatally.

#### Feeding

- Feed juveniles once a week, adults every one to two weeks.
- Feed in a separate tank so that your snake doesn't associate your hand or the habitat being opened with feeding.
- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times in a large enough bowl to soak in.

### Housing:

- **Size** - Appropriately sized and shaped habitat for a baby red-tail boa to accommodate normal behavior and exercise, at least a 20L. A 40 gallon tank is recommended for an adult.
- **Substrate** - Aspen shavings, mulch-type such as coconut fiber bedding or reptile bark; dampened sphagnum moss.
- **Habitat** - Provide a hiding area just large enough for your snake to fit inside and a branch or décor to climb on. Maintain 40 to 60% humidity; higher during shedding.
- **Temperature** - Temperature gradient (95°F for the warm end and 78° for the cool end); recommend radiant heat. Use an incandescent light as primary heat source, use under tank heater as secondary source.
- **Lighting** - Snakes need a photoperiod light cycle; provide 8-12 hours of light daily. Don't leave white light on at all times; a black or infrared light should be used at night.
- **Do not house different snake species together.**

#### Habitat Maintenance

- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the habitat at least once a week: place snake in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all traces of bleach smell; dry the tank and furnishings completely and add clean substrate.

**Note:** The information in this Care Guide is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

# Care Guide



## Care:

### Grooming & Hygiene

- Snakes will regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is at appropriate level to allow snake to shed properly.
- Never try to remove eye caps by yourself. Seek veterinary care.

### Health

- Active and alert
- Clear eyes (except when shedding)
- Eats regularly
- Healthy skin
- Sheds regularly
- Sheds skin in one complete piece

### Normal Behavior

- As your snake gets ready to shed, their eyes will turn a milky blue/grey over the course of a few days and their body color will start to dull and develop a whitish sheen. May become irritable; avoid handling if possible.
- Appetite may vary.

## Recommended Supplies:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Size Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing Decor    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Under Tank Heater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate                | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moss                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Humidity Gauge    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Dish               | <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Fixture      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hide                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Bulb         |

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