

## COLUMBIAN RED TAIL BOA

- Adults will grow 6 - 9ft on average, though some may grow as large as 12ft.
- Naturally found in tropical rainforests of Columbia as well as other parts of Central and South America.
- Very docile and even tempered when handled correctly.

### Diet

Baby boas need to be fed 1-2 pinky mice once each week. As they grow, you should slowly increase the quantity of mice offered. Once they are consistently eating 3-5 pinkies each feeding and their body girth gets larger, you should begin feeding 1-2 fuzzy mice once each week. Slowly increase the quantity and size of mice, or rats, offered following the above guideline. Juveniles can be fed once every two weeks and adults can be fed once every 3 weeks. However, each individual boa's eating habits will differ. It's important to find what's best for your boa.

A dish of fresh water should be available at all times.

### Housing

Babies can begin in a 20 long aquarium but will quickly need to be upgraded to a 40 breeder aquarium with either a coconut fiber substrate or cage carpet, moss, heat lamps, under tank heater, thermometer, water dish large enough for the snake to fit coiled up inside, driftwood, hide spots, and fake plants. Adults will need at least a 75-125 gallon aquarium with the same amenities as listed for juveniles. To accomplish appropriate humidity levels, Columbian red tail boas must be kept warm and misted once to twice daily.

The tank should also be furnished with furniture such as corkbark or other hiding spots. Be sure no furniture can shift or topple and injure your snake. There should be a hiding spot in both the heated and cooler sections of the tank. A soil or bark based substrate should be used for bedding.

Temperatures should be between 80 - 88° F during the day and 75 - 80°F at night. Heat only one end of the tank to provide a thermal gradient.

### Handling & Care

Adults and juveniles both are generally very docile and easy to handle. Handling your snake soon after it eats may cause him to regurgitate his meal. This is especially true if that meal was large. Do not lift the snakes for a few days after they have eaten.

Spot cleaning by removing feces once a week will ensure a healthy, clean environment but bedding should be thrown away and the entire cage and decorations wiped clean once every month to two months.

Wash your hands with anti-bacterial soap after handling any animal.

### Health

Respiratory distress can occur if the cage temperature changes radically or if humidity is high and the cage is damp.

Boas are quite susceptible to blister disease. This can occur if the cage substrate is too wet, and especially if the cage is both wet and dirty.



### BOA CHECKLIST

- Large Tank
- Screen Top
- Cage Clips
- Water Dish
- Frozen Mice
- Hiding Places
- Decor
- Heat Source
- Substrate
- Thermometers (2)
- Hygrometer
- Transport container
- Boa Book