

Shopping list– The Basics

- Appropriately size habitat (at least a 20L as juveniles & 40+ gallon as adults)
- Screen top
- Substrate
- Hiding caves
- Reptile cage thermometers
- Large shallow water dish
- Branches & climbing décor
- Moss
- Basking bulb and fixture
- Nighttime heat bulb & fixture
- Timer for light fixtures
- Under-tank heater mat
- Hydrometer
- Spray bottle for misting
- Frozen or live rodents
- Feeding tongs

Habitat

Pick a **habitat** that is appropriate for your red-tailed boa. 20L terrarium for juveniles and 40+ gallon terrarium for adults. Use a screen lid that locks to insure the snake stays inside the terrarium.

Every reptile requires a 8-12 hour light/dark cycle. Red-tailed boas do not like a lot of light on them. Use an under tank heater mat and incandescent bulb.

Humidity level needs to be kept between 40-60%.

Temperature for red-tailed boas:

- Day cool side: 78°F
- Day warm side: 95 °F
- Nighttime: 70-80 °F
- Place a thermometer at each end of the habitat to monitor.

Provide hiding spots on the cool side of the terrarium and branches/ climbing trees on the warm side.

Use an **aspen, coconut fiber or reptile carpet** for the substrate in the terrarium. 2" thick should be sufficient for substrate.

Get to know your Boa

- **Average adult size:**
up to 10 feet long
- **Average life span:**
About 15+ years
- **Diet:**
Carnivore
- **Habitat:**
Tropical

Nutrition

Red-tailed boas are carnivores, therefore eating consistently meat. A well balanced diet consists of appropriate sized frozen/live rodents. If frozen, the rodents need to be thawed/ warmed to above room temperature.

If feeding your snake live rodents, make sure to observe the snake and rodent. Live rodents can injure the snake.

Feed juveniles once or twice weekly. Adults every one or two weeks. Make sure to feed in a separate tank so that your snake doesn't associate your hand to feeding or habitat as feeding time.

Grooming & Health

Ensure that the humidity level is at a proper level. This will help your snake shed regularly. To help with shedding process, make sure shallow water dish is full with water inside the habitat so that the snake can submerge his entire body.

Signs of a healthy red-tailed boa:

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

Warning signs to watch for:

- Abnormal feces
- Vomiting
- Lethargic or reluctant to eat
- Difficulty shedding or abnormal shedding

Experience Level: intermediate

Red-Tailed Boa

care guide



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Our mission is to promote a compassionate and caring environment for animals and our employees. Our current staff are dedicated pet lovers and join us in fulfilling our mission of caring for happy, healthy pets.

Always supervise children when they are interacting with your red-tailed boa.

Give your pet 3 to 4 days to adjust to his new surroundings, then try holding him for short amounts of time. Take care to support the entire body of the snake.

This care guide contains only general information and tips for proper care. Speak with a Pet Depot sales associate or veterinarian with questions concerning your pet's health.

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