

Brazilian Rainbow Boa

Scientific Name: *Epicrates cenchria cenchria*

Native to: Brazil and surrounding countries

Maximum Length: 5-7 feet

Life Span: up to 20 years

Characteristics:

Brazilian Rainbow Boas are very popular because of their small size and richly colored markings which shimmer and create an iridescent effect, giving them their common name. Baby Brazilian Rainbow Boas can be nippy, but generally calm down with regular handling. Rainbow Boas are beautiful but may not be the ideal pet snake for beginning keepers. It is recommended that you use a snake hook when moving them from their enclosure. Once out of the enclosure you may be able to handle them without any problems.

Care Tips:

Enclosure: Baby Brazilian Rainbow Boas can be kept in 10-gallon terrariums. The larger the snakes gets, the more room you will want to provide. Make sure the enclosure is secure and provide a large water bowl and a place to hide. If you are using a glass cage or fish tank, be sure to cover the screen top partially with a piece of glass or Plexiglass to limit the loss of heat and humidity.

Substrate: Use damp sphagnum peat moss, cypress mulch, or paper towels (best for young snakes) as a substrate for these boas.

Habitat: Brazilian Rainbow Boas are secretive snakes and love hiding. Provide a damp hiding place such as a "cave" or large cork bark tube filled with damp sphagnum moss as well as branches for the boa to climb on. Clean the cage at least once a week.

Temperature and Lighting: Temperatures during the day should be kept around 80-85° F and should never exceed 85° F. Night temperature should range between 75-80° F. High humidity is essential for Rainbow Boas. Daily misting should be used to maintain humidity between 75-90%.

Food and Water: Provide a water bowl that is large enough for the boa to rest in. Baby and juvenile Brazilian Rainbow Boas eat pinky, fuzzy or small adult mice, depending on their size. Night feeding is ideal because the boas are more active during this time. Feed your baby Brazilian Rainbow Boa once or twice a week. Adults can be feed every 7-10 days. Brazilian Rainbow Boas may not eat when they are preparing to shed. Frozen/thawed rodents are always best because live rodents may harm your snake.