

## **Columbian Boa**

Scientific Name: *Epicrates Cenchria Maurus*

Native to: Columbia, Mexico, Central America, and South America west of the Andes.

Maximum Length: 10 – 12 feet.

Life Span: 20+ years.

### **Characteristics:**

Columbian boa's come in a variety of different patterns and, if handled regularly, are quite tame. They are not recommended as a beginner snake based on the size that they get. As your boa gets ready to shed it may become irritable and not want to eat.

### **Care tips:**

Enclosure: Boa's need a terrarium of at least 48" in length and 18" in height. These snakes are not small reptiles and can quickly grow 4 – 5 ft. This size of tank allows them to live happily, but also accommodates the required temperature gradient.

Substrate: Aspen shavings, coconut fiber, reptile bark, and dampened sphagnum moss are all appropriate for boas.

Habitat: Provide a hiding area just large enough for your boa to fit inside. A variety of branches or décor are great for your boa to climb on and use for basking.

Temperature and Lighting: A temperature gradient of 95°F for the basking area and 78°F for the cool end is required from a radiant heat bulb. Provide 8 – 12 hours of light daily. Do not leave light on at all times. A nocturnal or infrared light can be used at night if you want to see your animal.

Food and Water: Feed juveniles once a week with a pinky or fuzzy mouse depending on the girth of your boa. Adults will need to feed every one – two weeks. An appropriately sized rodent will be slightly smaller than the girth of the boa. It is recommended you feed your boa outside of the terrarium in a separate container. Thawed out frozen rodents are best to avoid injury for your boa.