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REDTAILED BOA CONSTRICTOR

Boa constrictor constrictor

ORIGIN: Red tailed boa constrictors are native to northern regions of South America. Most red tailed boa constrictors in the U.S. originate in Colombia or are captive bred. They are semi-arboreal and naturally inhabit dense tropical rainforests.

SIZE: Red tailed boa constrictors reach an average adult length of 6 feet. However, exceptional individuals may exceed 9 feet in captivity.

CAGING: Red tailed boa constrictors can be kept in a variety of plastic and glass cages. The cage must be equipped with a secure, tight fitting lid that provides ventilation. A 20-gallon aquarium with a screen lid is large enough to house a red tailed boa constrictor for one year. Adults require large cages due to their size, typically at least 8 square feet of floor space.

SUBSTRATE: Red tailed boa constrictors will thrive on a variety of substrates including newspaper, mulch, pine shavings, and bark. Do not use cedar shavings because they are toxic to the snake.

TEMPERATURE: Red tailed boa constrictors should be provided with a thermal gradient ranging from 80°F at one end of the cage to 95°F at the other. This is easily achieved by placing a heat mat at one end of the enclosure.

LIGHT: Red tailed boa constrictors do not require any special lighting because they are nocturnal and consume whole vertebrates.

WATER: Red tailed boa constrictors should be provided with fresh, clean water at all times. A water dish which allows the snake to submerge its entire body is preferable, but not a necessity. Use a water bowl which is not easily overturned.

DIET: Red tailed boa constrictors feed on appropriately sized mice and rats. Feeder rodents may be purchased live or frozen. Live rodents should not be left in the snake's cage unattended. Frozen rodents should be thawed to room temperature prior to feeding. Red tailed boa constrictors should be fed 1-2 times per week.

RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- Glass or plastic enclosure
- Secure lid for enclosure
- Heat mat approximately half size of enclosure
- Thermometer with probe to monitor temperature
- Substrate as detailed above
- Literature about boa constrictor husbandry
- Hiding area such as cork bark or imitation rock
- Water bowl

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

- Fluorescent light
- Colored incandescent bulb for nighttime viewing
- Silk plants and branches
- Decorative cage background

SMALL ANIMAL & REPTILE REPLACEMENT GUARANTEE

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NOTE: The information contained in this caresheet solely represents the opinions of the author. It is not intended as a complete guide to captive husbandry.