

CARING FOR YOUR ROSY BOA

Scientific Name: *Lichanura trivirgata ssp.*
Native to: South Western United States
Maximum Length: Average is 2-4 feet. Females longer than males
Life Span: 30 + years



CHARACTERISTICS:

Rosy Boas make excellent pets due to their docile nature and manageable size. These beautiful snakes are native to the Southwestern United States. Although there are only a handful of subspecies, their color and pattern variations occur geographically.

CARE TIPS:

Enclosure: As your rosy boa grows, so should its enclosure. A 10 gallons enclosure works well for juveniles, but an adult will require a 20 or 30 gallon enclosure. Provide an escape proof, well ventilated enclosure and avoid enclosures that have an abrasive top, such as screening, as rosy boas are notorious for rubbing their snouts on cage surfaces while looking for ways to escape their enclosures.

Substrate: Aspen chips or reptile sand work well for rosy boas. Spot clean the enclosure twice a week and change the substrate every other month. Keep the substrate clean and dry at all times.

Habitat: Provide a layer of bedding deep enough for your snake to burrow and completely hide itself. Rosy boas do poorly if they are kept in conditions that are too humid. No special measures are required to maintain a low humidity level.

Temperature and Lighting: Being desert dwellers, rosy boas enjoy high daytime temperatures. Use a heating pad to create a temperature gradient of 80 degrees at the cool end of the enclosure to 90 degrees at the warm end. Provide lighting for your rosy boa.

Food and Water: Rosy boas do best when they are not provided with a continual water source. Limited access to water should be provided, especially if they are feeding regularly. Rosy boas will regurgitate their food if provided with water immediately following a feeding. A better protocol is to offer water for one day, remove the water source, wait a day, and then feed the animal. Their diet should consist of pinky or fuzzy mice for young snakes, and then gradually larger food items as the snake matures. Frozen/thawed rodents, such as [Mack's Natural Reptile Food Frozen Rodents](#), are always best because live rodents may harm your snake.