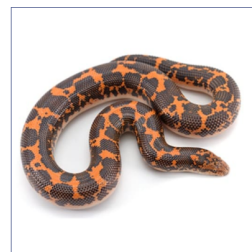


Kenyan Sand Boa / East African Sand Boa

Scientific Name: Eryx Colubrinus

Brief Description:

These interesting snakes originated from Africa and Europe. They enjoy burrowing into the substrate during the day, as their name would suggest. These snakes are easier to care for than most species and can be kept in small enclosures, making them very popular as pets. The Kenyan Sand Boa is also referred to as the "East African Sand Boa", although hobbyists have largely adapted "Kenyan" for the common name.



Average Size: Males will average approximately fifteen to eighteen inches, while females can average twenty-four-to-thirty-six-inches.

Life Span: Fifteen years or more with proper care.

Feeding:

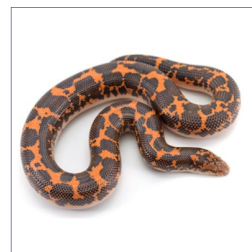
- Feed your snake an appropriately sized rodent weekly.
 - o Food should be no larger than the snake at its largest point
- Can eat mice their entire lives, starting with pinkies and hatchling and moving up as the snake grows.
- Do not handle snake for at least a day after feeding.
- Some snakes can become over-stimulated by the smell of food and bite the keeper in their excitement.
- Boa's can be converted to frozen/thawed or pre-killed rodents.
- Never leave a live rodent unattended with ANY snake.

Kenyan Sand Boa / East African Sand Boa

Scientific Name: *Eryx Colubrinus*

Housing:

- Boa's prefer smaller enclosures which make them feel more secure.
- Enclosures can be as simple or elaborate as you wish
 - o More elaborate setups take more time to maintain, clean and disinfect.
- Many enclosures work well for the Boa.
 - o Plastic sweater boxes by Rubbermaid.
 - o Melamine racks.
 - o Freedom Breeder cages.
 - o Commercially available plastic-type reptile cages.
- Glass aquarium and tanks with screen tops also work quite well for corn snakes.
- A ten gallon tank is suitable for an adult male with extra space for a vivarium.
- A female will be more comfortable in a twenty-gallon tank.
- Boa's can be housed small, same sex groups in a larger enclosure.
- Ensure you cage is snake-proof and secure.
- All enclosures must allow for proper thermal gradient that the snake can use.



Maintenance:

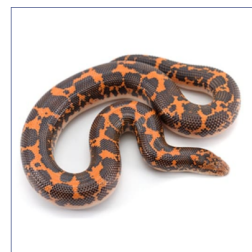
- A number of substrate types work well for the boa.
 - o Sand
 - o Aspen bedding
 - o Coconut mulch
 - o News paper
- Do not use the following substrate for your pet boa.
 - o Gravel
 - o Corncob bedding
 - o Cedar shavings

Kenyan Sand Boa / East African Sand Boa

Scientific Name: *Eryx Colubrinus*

Maintenance: (con't)

- Clean your enclosure as necessary.
 - o Remove feces/urates/uneaten prey items as soon as possible
 - o Clean and disinfect water bowl, weekly.
- Every thirty days, remove all substrate and cage furniture and completely disinfect using a commercially available cleaner.
 - o Rinse enclosure thoroughly and allow to dry.



Temperature:

- Basking spot of ninety-to-ninety-five °F, required.
- Ambient temperature of seventy-to-seventy-five °F, required.
- Ambient temperature should not fall below °F.
- Do NOT GUESS the temperatures, you MUST KNOW the temperatures at which you are keeping your pet.
 - o Monitor temperatures by using a digital indoor / outdoor thermometer with a probe.
 - o Stick the thermometer to the inside of the cage on the cool end and place the probe on the warm end.
- Heating the enclosure can be accomplished with:
 - o Heating pads.
 - o Ceramic heat emitters.
 - o Basking bulbs (both regular daytime and red night bulbs)
 - o Use thermostats, rheostats and/or timers to control your heat source.
 - o Do not use hot rocks as they can cause serious burns.

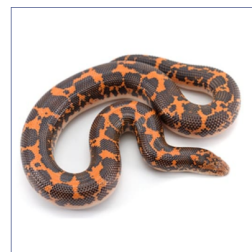
Petware House

Kenyan Sand Boa / East African Sand Boa

Scientific Name: *Eryx Colubrinus*

Humidity:

- Very low humidity requirements
- Adjusts well to household ambient humidity
- Provide a humidity box for the snake during skin sheds to help avoid stuck or incomplete shedding.
 - o Provide a hiding box with packed sphagnum moss.



Lighting:

- We suggest a UVB bulb which should run on a twelve-twelve cycle.
 - o Twelve hours on and twelve hours off.
 - o Continuous bright, overhead light is stressful to snakes.
 - o Provide a hiding spot for your pet within the enclosure.

Water and Accessories:

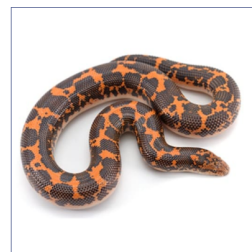
- Always provide, clean, fresh water for your pet.
- This species does not soak regularly, so the size of the water bowl is up to you.
- Ensure that bowl is not too deep for juvenile animals – one inch deep or so will suffice.
- The Sand Boa will defecate in their water bowl from time-to-time, be prepared for cleaning and disinfecting as necessary.
- Keep a spare water bowl on hand for use while the other is being cleaned.

Kenyan Sand Boa / East African Sand Boa

Scientific Name: Eryx Colubrinus

Notes and Comments:

Sand Boas, although less common than other snakes, make excellent beginner pets. They are highly attractive, low-maintenance that grow into robust captives when well cared for. If handled they remain quite docile. They can be a lot of fun to feed as well, as they are ambush predators and will emerge from the substrate to catch their prey.



Petware House