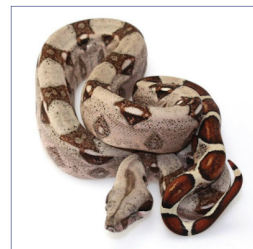


## Red-tailed Boa

Scientif Name: Boidae

### Brief Description:

The red-tailed Boa, found in the Americas, Africa, Europe, Asia and some Pacific Islands, is a non-venoms and docile snake. These are fairly primitive snakes, adults are typically medium to large in size, with females usually larger than the males.



**Average Size:** Hatchings range from twelve-to-sixteen inches. Adult females average seven-to-nine feet, while their male counterparts average five-to-eight feet. Maximum size is about twelve feet, however, over ten feet is extremely rare.

**Average Life Span:** With proper care, a Red-tailed boa can live fifteen or more years.

### Feeding:

Feeding your Red-tailed Boa is a fairly simple process, but just as with the feeding of any pet, there are a few general rules and guidelines you should follow. Read below for all the details.

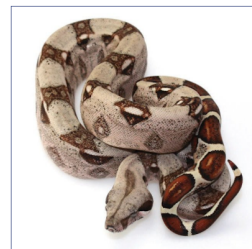
- Food items should not exceed the largest round-point of your Boa.
  - o Young Red-tailed Boa's are particularly susceptible to chronic regurgitation of large portions.
- Red-tailed Boa's can eat rat pups or crawlers.
- Food portions can increase as your Boa increases in size
- Don't handle your pet for at least a day after feeding.
- Red-tailed Boa's can be converted to eating frozen, thawed or pre-killed rodents.
- NEVER leave a live rodent unattended with ANY snake.

## Red-tailed Boa

Scientif Name: Boidae

### Housing:

Adequate housing for your Red-tailed boa is critical for his or her well-being. Fortunately, we have a number of options available to us but just as with any other pet, their home needs to be kept in tip-top shape. Continue reading for more details.



- Housing can be as simple or as elaborate as you wish.
- Elaborate housing setup's will require more time for maintenance.
- Some enclosure types that will work well for your Red-tailed Boa include:
  - o Plastic sweater boxes by Rubbermaid.
  - o Melamine racks.
  - o Freedom Breeder cages.
  - o Commercially available plastic reptile cages such as from Vision Herp.
- Glass aquariums are adequate.
- Smaller snakes often feel more secure and safe in smaller cages.
- For larger snakes, we suggest a minimum of a six-foot cage.
- All cages must allow for a thermal gradient.

### Maintenance:

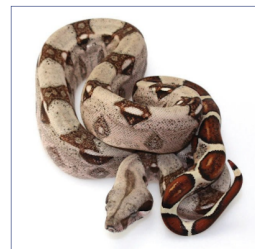
Keeping your Red-tailed Boa enclosure, as clean as possible, is paramount to the continued success of your pet. Below you find some great, must-know details, to accomplish this.

- Spot clean your enclosure as required.
- Remove feces, urates and uneaten prey items as soon as possible.
- Clean and disinfect water bowl, once per week, or as required.
- Once a month, or as required, remove all substrate and decoration items and disinfect using an appropriate solution.
- Rinse enclosure and all items before returning items your pet to his or her home.

## Red-tailed Boa

Scientif Name: Boidae

### Temperatures:



As part of your Red-tailed Boa maintenance regiment, you will have to ensure that your pet is kept comfortable at all times, within his or her enclosure. As a result, temperatures as well as humidity levels are very important for your pet. Keep reading to for some detailed information.

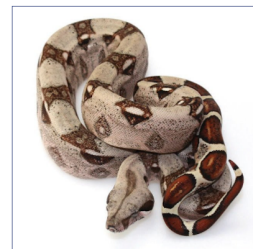
- Provide a basking sport of eighty-eight to ninety °F.
- The ambient temperature should be at a comfortable seventy-eight to eighty °F.
  - o Ambient temperature should not fall below seventy-five °F.
- As part of your daily routine, check on temperatures and adjust accordingly.
  - o Under no circumstances should you guesstimate the temperature
- Use a digital indoor/outdoor thermometer with a probe.
  - o Place the thermometer to the inside of the cage on the cool end.
  - o Place the probe on the warm end.
- Keep an eye on the humidity level and check it frequently.
- Heat the enclosure using one or more of the following:
  - o Heating pads
  - o Ceramic heat emitters
  - o Basking bulbs (both regular daytime and red night bulbs)
- Use thermostats, rheostats and/or timers to control your heat source.
- Do not use hot rocks and they don't heat up evenly

## Red-tailed Boa

Scientif Name: Boidae

### Humidity Levels:

Humidity levels are important for a number of reasons. However, too much humidity can be as problematic as too little humidity. Keep reading to learn more.



- Humidity is measured as the amount of moisture in the air.
- You will need to establish and maintain a humidity level of fifty-to-sixty percent.
- We can use cypress, or similar substrate that is mould resistant, and can be misted.
  - o Cypress turns a tan color when dry and a rich brown when wet, providing a visual cue.
- A humidity box is ideal
  - o Pack a plastic container with damp, sphagnum moss, cutting a hole in the top or side.
  - o Place this box in an easily accessible location for your pet.
- If you have an open-top enclosure, you will want to cover most of it to keep moisture from escaping.
- Don't allow the cage to become soggy as this can lead to bacterial and fungal infections or death.

### Lighting:

Supplemental lighting is not necessary for the Red-tailed Boa, but if used, it should run on a twelve/twelve cycle, meaning twelve hours on and twelve hours off. Continuous bright overhead lighting is stressful to snakes, especially a nocturnal serpent such as this one.

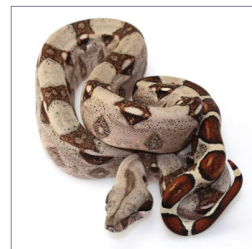


## Red-tailed Boa

Scientif Name: Boidae

### Water:

Water for your Red-tailed Boa, is without stating the obvious, essential, as it is to all life. Your pet will drink copiously and at times even make the most of the opportunity to soak up. As a result, we've provided some basic tips below for your convenience.



- Ensure that your bowl isn't too deep, especially for young Red-tailed Boa's.
- They will defecate in their water bowl, so keep fresh and clean, everyday.
- Keep a spare bowl on hand while the other is away for disinfecting and cleaning.

### Accessories:

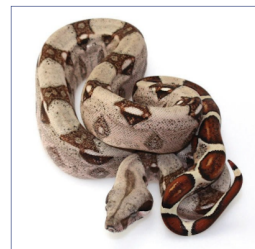
While accessories help decorate your pet's enclosure, one item in particular will be appreciated and highly utilized by your Red-tailed Boa. What accessory is that, you ask? A simple hide box. Two of them would work quite well – one at each end of the enclosure. Boa's are nocturnal creatures that will make use of a place to hide during the day and a hide box is a perfect solution. Providing one at each end of the gradient is ideal so your pet doesn't have to choose between security and temperature. Additional accessories can include:

- Clay flower pots.
- Hide boxes.
- Plastic flower-pot trays.
- Branches for climbing.
- Live harmless plants (also helps raise humidity levels).

## Red-tailed Boa

Scientif Name: Boidae

### Reproductive:



- Male Red-tailed Boa's reach sexual maturity at approximately eighteen months.
- Female Red-tailed boa's reach sexual maturity at approximately three years of age.
  - o This does not mean successful breeding.
- In captivity, Red-tailed Boa's will breed between November through to March.
  - o Stop feeding during this time.
- Boa's should be in excellent health before any breeding attempts.
- Induce breeding by reducing daytime photoperiod to eight-to-ten hours.
- Induce breeding by dropping night time temperatures into the mid seventies.
- Introduce the female into the males cage, seven-to-fourteen days after feeding is stopped.
- Misting Boa's with water may help induce breeding.
- Check for ovulation.
  - o Fairly thick mid-body swelling.
  - o Will shed fourteen-to-twenty days after ovulation.
- Provide a basking spot of ninety-to-eighty °F for gravid females.
- After ovulation, females can be fed small prey every fourteen days if necessary.
- Its common for birth of fifty neonates after four-to-five month gestation.

### Notes and Comments:

The Red-tailed Boa is by far, one of the most popular pet snakes and it's quite easy to see why. They are very docile and available in many beautiful patterns and color variations. We can tell you that these snakes are truly a pleasure to keep and interact with. Their manageable size and simple care requirements make it easy for enthusiast to manage, keep healthy and easily breed.