



Amazon Tree Boa Care Sheet

Species Name:

Corallus hortulanus

Adult Size:

5-7ft

Lifespan:

15-20 years

Breeding Age:

3-4 years



Amazon tree boas (*Corallus hortulanus*) are striking, arboreal snakes native to the rainforests of South America, including regions in Brazil, Peru, and Venezuela. Known for their vibrant coloration, which ranges from bright yellows and oranges to deep reds and greens, these boas exhibit a high degree of colour polymorphism. They are relatively slender and can grow up to six feet in length. Amazon tree boas are nocturnal hunters, preying primarily on birds, lizards, and small mammals. They possess heat-sensing pits along their jaws, allowing them to detect warm-blooded prey in the dense foliage of their forest habitat. Despite their somewhat irritable disposition and tendency to bite when threatened, they are popular in the exotic pet trade due to their striking appearance and fascinating behaviours.

Housing:

Enclosure: As arboreal creatures they will enjoy a vivarium which is tall, a 36"x18"x24" vivarium is ideal.

Substrate: Using a substrate that retains moisture is important to help maintain humidity. This can be cypress mulch, coconut fibre, or sphagnum moss.

Furnishings: Provide plenty of branches, vines, and perch for climbing as well as hiding spots at different heights.

Temperature:

Provide a temperature gradient to allow them to thermoregulate. The warm end of the enclosure should be 30-32°C with the cooler side of the terrarium being 24-27°C.

Use a heat source like a ceramic lamp or heat lamp to create a basking spot.

Night time temperatures can drop to 22°C.

Lighting:

Amazon Tree Boas do not require UVB lighting to survive, however it can be beneficial for their overall health. They will benefit from a 10-12-hour day/night cycle.

Diet:

Feeding: Offer a varied diet of appropriately sized mice/chicks/rats.

Juveniles should be fed every 7-10 days while adults can be fed every 10-14 days.

Offer pre-killed or frozen-thawed prey to prevent injury to the snake.



Humidity and Hydration:

A humidity of 50-70% should be maintained.

Provide a water bowl for drinking water and bathing. Mist the enclosure occasionally to maintain humidity levels and aid in shedding.

Enrichment and Handling:

Place hiding spots, rocks, vines and branches for climbing to create a stimulating environment.

Provide a secure hide for them to retreat and feel safe.

Health Considerations:

Regularly monitor for signs of illness, such as lethargy, changes in appetite, or difficulty shedding.

Quarantine new reptiles before introducing them to existing enclosures.

Proper care and attention to detail are essential for the health and well-being of Amazon tree boas. With the right environment and care, these beautiful snakes can thrive in captivity.