



Brazilian Rainbow Boa Care Sheet:

Species name:

Epicrates cenchria

Adult Size:

5-6ft

Lifespan:

20-25 Years

Breeding Age:

18 Months (Male)

2 1/2 Years (Female)



Brazilian rainbow boas (*Epicrates cenchria*) are strikingly beautiful snakes native to Central and South America. Known for their iridescent scales that shimmer in the light, they exhibit a rainbow-like sheen, hence their name. Typically growing to 4-6 feet in length, these boas thrive in humid, tropical environments. They are non-venomous constrictors, preying on small mammals, birds, and occasionally reptiles. Rainbow boas are popular in the pet trade due to their unique appearance and relatively docile nature.

Housing:

Enclosure: Provide a vertically oriented enclosure to accommodate their arboreal nature. A glass terrarium with front-opening doors is suitable.

Size: For an adult Rainbow Boa, a minimum enclosure size should be 3 feet (length) x 2 feet (width) x 2 feet (height). Taller enclosures with branches and climbing opportunities are appreciated.

Substrate: Use a humidity-retaining substrate such as coconut coir, cypress mulch, or a similar bedding material. Maintain a substrate depth of at least 2 inches.

Temperature and Lighting:

Temperature Gradient: Maintain a temperature gradient in the enclosure. Provide a basking spot of 31-32°C on the warm end and a cooler area around 24-27°C on the cool end. Night temperature can drop slightly from this.

Heating: Use an under-tank heating pad, ceramic heat emitter or heat tape to create a warm spot. Employ a thermostat to regulate temperatures.

Lighting: Rainbow Boas are nocturnal, so they do not require special lighting. However, ambient room lighting with a day/night cycle is beneficial.

Humidity:

Humidity Level: Keep humidity levels between 60-80%. A misting system or regular misting with a water spray bottle can help maintain proper humidity.

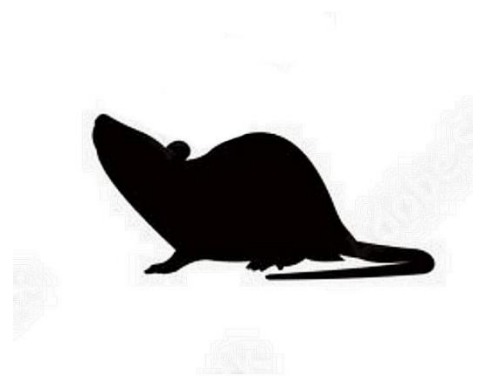
Humidity Hide: Provide a humidity hide on the warm side to create a higher humidity microclimate.

Feeding:

Diet: Brazilian Rainbow Boas primarily eat small mammals in the wild. In captivity, offer appropriately sized mice or rats.

Feeding Schedule: Feed juveniles every 7-10 days, while adults can be fed every 10-14 days. Adjust the schedule based on the individual snake's metabolism.

Prey Size: Feed prey items that are about the same width as the thickest part of the snake's body.



Health and Handling:

Regular Check-ups: Monitor your snake for signs of illness, including changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance. Seek veterinary attention if any concerns arise.

Handling: Rainbow Boas can be handled but are known to be more sensitive compared to other species. Handle with care and avoid excessive stress, especially during shedding or after feeding.

Enrichment:

Branches and Climbing Structures: Include branches and climbing structures for exercise and mental stimulation.

Hide Boxes: Provide multiple hiding spots, including at least one on the warm end and one on the cool end.

Environmental Variation: Create a dynamic environment by rearranging décor periodically to stimulate the snake's natural behaviours.

General Tips:

Cleanliness: Regularly clean and disinfect the enclosure, removing waste promptly.

Research: Stay informed about the specific needs and behaviours of Rainbow Boas to ensure their well-being.

Remember that individual snakes may have unique preferences, and adjustments to care may be needed based on their behaviour and health. Always consult with a reptile veterinarian for personalized advice.