



Kenyan Sand Boa Care Sheet:

Species Name:

Gongylophis colubrinus

Adult size:

2-3feet

Lifespan:

15-20 Years

Breeding age:

Females should be at least 2 years old. Males are often ready to breed after a year.



Kenyan sand boas, *Eryx colubrinus*, are small, non-venomous snakes native to East Africa's sandy habitats. Classified under the Boidae family, they exhibit unique characteristics within their genus. These burrowing reptiles possess stout bodies, typically growing up to 2 feet in length. Their coloration varies, with sandy hues providing effective camouflage in their arid environments. Nocturnal hunters, they feed primarily on small rodents. Reproduction involves live birth, with females giving birth to litters of up to 10 young. Kenyan sand boas are adept burrowers, utilizing their powerful bodies to navigate through loose substrate. Their flattened heads and short tails aid in tunnelling.

Enclosure:

Size: Your Kenyan Sand Boa will thrive in a large terrestrial vivarium. A 3ft wooden vivarium is ideal with the maxi size available being even better for a deeper layer of substrate to allow the boa to burrow.

Substrate: Use a deep layer of a dry substrate like sand or aspen to allow your snake to burrow.

Temperature:

Hot End: The warmer end of your enclosure should be roughly 30°C with a basking spot of 35°C.

Ambient Temperature: Maintain an ambient temperature of 25°C dropping down to 22°C at night.

Humidity:

While the deserts of east Africa may seem dry, the Kenyan Sand Boa requires moderate humidity between 50-60%.

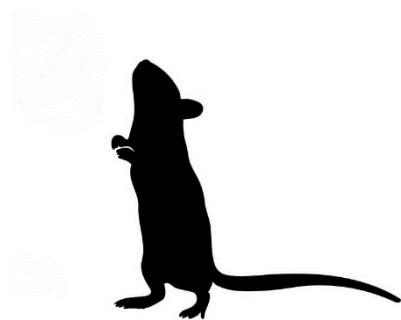
Lighting:

While Kenyan Sand Boas do not require UVB lighting to survive, adding a bulb into your vivarium does have health benefits. These snakes are classed under Ferguson Zone 2, meaning they will only bask occasionally.

Diet:

Sand Boas are carnivorous, with their diet consisting of appropriately sized mice or rats.

Juveniles can be fed pinkies every 5-7 days. The largest food the boa will eat being large mice as an adult every 7-10 days.



Behaviour and Enrichment:

During the day Kenyan Sand Boas spend most of their time burrowed in the substrate. At night they come out and will use terrestrial enrichment such as rocks and branches to aid in thermoregulation and shedding.

Handling:

Handle your Kenyan Sand Boa gently and regularly to build trust. Support their body when handling to avoid stress or injury. Always avoid handling after your snake has eaten to avoid regurgitation.

Health:

Health checks: If you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance, seek professional advice promptly.

Cleanliness: Clean and disinfect the enclosure regularly, removing faeces and uneaten food promptly to maintain a healthy environment.

Remember, understanding and replicating the natural environment of the Kenyan Sand Boa is crucial for their well-being. Always conduct further research and consult with experienced reptile keepers or veterinarians for the best care practices.