

Amazon Tree Boa

(Corallus Hortulanus)

Country of Origin	South America
Average Size	5 – 7 Feet but very slender
Temperament	Handle with care, can be snappy
Food Source	Rodents / Chicks
Experience Level	Intermediate



The Amazon Tree Boa is a magnificent display snake that comes in a huge array of colours, from grey, to brown, yellow, red, or even green. Although not a beginner's snake due to it's speed and snappy nature, it can be calmed and is Handleable with care.

The Amazon Tree Boa (or ATB) is most aggressive in it's habitat, often viewing anything that enters as possible prey items. In the wild, these boas live high in the trees, and are opportunists, often eating frogs, small birds, lizards, or anything that ventures near them. They are also a prey item for many of the larger hunting birds, and monkeys, and as such, are always on their guard. This is overcome by using a snake hook and gloves to remove the ATB from the habitat. Once out, it often calms down and can be handled with care. Gloves should be worn until you are confident, as although this boa is small, and does not have fangs or venom, it does have small sharp teeth.

The enclosure for this snake should have greater height, and although many breeders have claimed to maintain adults in a 24" x 24" x 24" enclosure, it might be advisable to increase the height to 36", and increase the floor space if more than one adult is being kept together.

Temperature should be approximately 80 to 82 degrees F in the daytime and can drop down to the upper 70s at night. Humidity should be kept high, and the cage should be sprayed two to three times a day to maintain this. A large water bowl should be provided on the floor of the habitat. It is important that branches and foliage are offered to this snake, as they live their lives in the trees. They prefer branches that have a fork in them or larger flat branches, to straight and thin branches.

Amazon Tree Boas in the wild do not eat rodents, but captive bred or young boas are usually easy to feed and will adjust to defrost rodents readily. These boas do not always eat at the same frequency as other snakes, and many people find feeding once every 14 days is adequate as an adult. They only defecate once every 2-3 feeds and this is perfectly normal. These are a stunning display snake that is always visible during the day, and does not hide from view. They are alert and active, fairly easy to house and easy to feed – but handling should be kept to a minimum and done carefully, and this is why this snake has been described as Intermediate.