

Sand Boa

(*Eryx sp*)



Country of Origin	West Africa
Average Size	2 – 3 Feet
Temperament	Docile
Food Source	Rodents
Experience Level	Beginner

The west African Sand Boa is also known as the Mueller's Sand Boa and the Saharan Sand boa, due to the fact that it originates from the western part of Africa, the southern Sahara, Mali, Niger, and Chad.

This boa is quite new on the pet shop market and is reported to be very docile and adapt well to captivity. They are a very attractive orange and black, making a striking appearance.

Most of the sand boa family require a similar environment in captivity. They are small boas, nothing like their massive constrictor cousins, only reaching a maximum of 2-3 feet. These are a burrowing species, and like to live in sand, which is their most natural environment. It should however be noted that snakes should not be fed on this substrate, as defrost mice will be damp, and the sand will stick to the fur, and can cause impaction in the snake.

It takes approximately 3 years of age for a sand boa to mature, at which point they will eat large defrost mice. A hatchling will start out on pinky mice, and the size of the mouse will increase as the snake grows. Do not feed a mouse that is larger than the head of the snake.

A 3 foot vivarium would be adequate for a pair of these snakes. Floor space is more important than climbing space, and the substrate should be deep enough for burrowing, but a hiding spot, and a basking spot should also be offered. Temperature should be kept at approximately 82 degrees, rising to 88-90 degrees in the basking spot.

The majority of sand boas are livebearing, although some subspecies have not yet been bred in captivity, the African and Kenyan sand boas are well established.

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