

Red Tail Boa Care Sheet

About Red Tail Boas

- Red Tail Boas are **large, strong snakes**.
- They can live **20–30 years**.
- They grow big and need **lots of space and careful care**.
- An adult should always help with care.

Tank (Home) Setup

- Use a **large, strong enclosure** with a locking lid.
- Adult boas need **long tanks** so they can stretch out.
- The tank must feel safe and quiet.

Temperature (VERY IMPORTANT)

- Red Tail Boas need the **right heat** to stay healthy.
- Use **two thermometers** (one on each side of the tank).

Correct Temperatures

- Warm side: **88–92°F (31–33°C)**
- Cool side: **78–82°F (25–28°C)**
- Night time: **Never below 75°F (24°C)**

Why Temperature Matters

- Too cold: the snake **cannot digest food**.
- Too hot: the snake can **overheat or get burned**.
- Wrong temperatures can cause **stress, sickness, or death**.

Heating Rules

- Always use a **thermostat** with heaters.
- Use heat mats or heat panels made for reptiles.
- Never use heat rocks.
- Check temperatures **every day**.

Humidity (EXTREMELY IMPORTANT)

- Red Tail Boas need **moderate to high humidity**.
- Use a **humidity gauge** (hygrometer).

Correct Humidity

- Normal: **60–70%**
- Shedding: **70–80%**

Why Humidity Matters

- Too dry: **stuck shed**, dry skin, breathing problems.
- Too wet for too long: **scale rot and infections**.
- Wrong humidity can make the snake **very sick**.

How to Control Humidity

- Use bedding that holds moisture.
- Lightly mist the tank when humidity is low.
- Add a **humid hide** with damp moss.
- Make sure the tank still has airflow.
- Check humidity **every day**.

Bedding

- Good bedding choices:
 - Cypress mulch

- Coconut husk
- Never use:
 - Sand
 - Pine
 - Cedar

Hides and Climbing

- Provide **at least two hides**:
 - One warm
 - One cool
- Hides help the snake feel safe.
- Boas like **sturdy branches or platforms** for climbing.

Water

- Always provide **clean, fresh water**.
- Bowl should be big enough for soaking.
- Change water **2–3 times a week**.
- Dirty water can cause sickness.

Feeding

- Feed **frozen-thawed rodents only**.
- Young boas eat more often than adults.
- Adults usually eat **every 2–3 weeks**.
- Never handle for **48 hours after feeding**.
- Wrong temperatures can cause food to come back up.

Handling

- Handle only when the snake is calm.
- Support the whole body.
- Never squeeze or grab the head.
- Move slowly and gently.
- Wash hands before and after handling.
- An adult must always be present.

Cleaning

- Clean poop and dirty bedding right away.
- Deep clean the tank **once a month**.
- Always put the snake somewhere safe during cleaning.

Health Warning Signs

Tell an adult if you see:

- Trouble shedding
- Wheezing or bubbles near the mouth
- Red or soft belly scales
- Not eating for a long time
- Staying soaked all the time

Most Important Things to Remember

- **Temperature and humidity are the most important parts of care**
- Check heat and humidity **every single day**

- Always use thermometers, hygrometers, and thermostats
- When unsure, ask an experienced adult or reptile vet