

ANIMAL INFORMATION SHEET

Common Name – African/Kenyan Sand Boa

Scientific Name – *Eryx colubrinus loveridgei*

Order: Squamata

Suborder: Serpentes

Family: Boidae



Care, feeding and handling guidelines are outlined by the Association of Zoo and Aquariums, US Fish and Wildlife and the United States Department of Agriculture.

General Information:

Size: 1-3' feet, well cared for animals have reached well over 3 feet.

Lifespan: 20+ years

Wild Habitat: semi-desert and scrub savannahs rock outcroppings and prefers sandy, friable soil.

Diet: Carnivorous: mice, small rats, small birds, and lizards, in captivity pre-killed mice

Indigenous Habitat: Found in northern Africa from Egypt as far west as Niger, including Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, and northern Tanzania. This species is primarily ground, burrowing under desert floor.

Home Habitat: adults should be housed in aquarium 10 gallons or larger, sand in tank should be paired with heat source that can hold a basking temperature of 80° F is required and a cooler side is important also. Tank should include water dish of ample size for snake to be able to submerge to ease in shedding. Different things in the cage like, rocks, plants, will allow your snake to exhibit more behaviors. Reptile enrichment can be very difficult, all items brought in tank from “wild” should be frozen at least a day to prevent mite contamination.

Recommended max time for handling: 30 minutes

Temperature Range: 68° F – 95° F (Higher temperatures reduce time animal should be available for “touching” or being handled.

Transport: medium coolers with snake bags to make sure your snake doesn't escape, can be transported in travel container with filled sand.

Restraint: Sand Boas are calm animals, so just support their bodies until they feel comfortable and relax

Handling: Can be a great candidate for handling, tend to be calm and don't mind being handled

Signs of Stress: Hissing, striking and biting, attempting to escape

Vocalization: Hissing

Interesting Facts: Sand Boas are some of the smallest boas on Earth with a unique small, shovel shaped head makes burrowing in sandy soil an ease. This snake is considered a docile species and rarely strikes or bites. In fact when threatened, it buries itself quickly and carefully in soft ground, usually sand.



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1. Tidewater Reptile Association at <http://www.freewebs.com/tidewaterreptileassociation/>
2. Central Virginia Reptile Rescue at <http://carmendenali79.wix.com/centralvareptilerescue>
3. For questions or concerns you may have about your pets or where to adopt contact The Bunny Hutch at Info@TheBunnyHutch.ORG or call (866) 488-4248.