

Please Call With any Questions or Concerns

Animal Ark has multiple
exotic-focused
Veterinarians on staff
including the Owner of the
practice, Dr. Spindel.

Please call to schedule an
appointment with one of
our wonderful
Veterinarians today!

Supply List:

- Tank with Very Secure Lid (snake lock top)
- Aspen Snake Bedding
- Water Dish and Spray Bottle
- Cage Décor
- Frozen Rodent (size based on snake size)
- Long Feeding Tongs
- Small Travel/ Feeding Cage
- Heat source (UTTH or Ceramic Bulb)
- IR Thermometer

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Python and Boa Care Sheet

Animal Ark Veterinary Hospital
3515 Lawrence St,
Clemmons NC 27012
336-778-2738



Ball pythons and red-tailed boas
are among the most common
large snakes in the pet industry.



1. Bottom Substrate: Aspen snake bedding is an excellent bottom substrate for corn snakes. It allows them to burrow in and hide which is a natural behavior.
2. Water dish: A water dish of decent size should be provided at all times, even if it does not appear the snake is drinking from it. Many will soak in the water dish as well.
3. Tank: Most of these snakes do get pretty large (6 ft plus) but should have as large of a tank as possible as adults (min size 50 gallon long). As juveniles, a smaller tank can be used and increased as they grow. A vertical tank can be used for arboreal pythons or any individuals that like to climb.
4. Decor: Snakes like to hide under rocks and in little caves (be sure they cannot get stuck in any holes). Branches can allow climbing as well but should not be too high to prevent falls.
5. Snake Lock-Top: A secure tank lid is a necessity for a snake owner. Snakes are excellent escape artists and will get out if they can.
6. Heat Source: Heat is needed for these snakes; an under-the-tank heater (UTTH) or a ceramic heat bulb can be used to provide the heat (heat bulbs better for arboreal or climbing snakes, UTTH for terrestrial snakes is best and then the lamps for arboreal species).

Diet:

The best diet is frozen, thawed rodents. It is the safest way to offer food. Sizes can be bought to meet snakes' needs.

Pinkies (smallest) -> Fuzzies -> Small mouse -> Medium Mouse -> Large mouse (largest) -> Small rat -> Medium rat -> Large rat (largest)

Do Not thaw in water unless in a bag. If submerged in water then water-soluble vitamins may be leached.

Feed juveniles every 5-7 days

Feed adults every 7-10 days

They should be fed in a smaller tank to help prevent cage aggression.

Often feeding tongs are needed to move the mouse around a bit to entice the snake to eat.

Good to Know:

Boas and pythons do best with an ambient temperature around 80°F and a hot spot of the tank approaching 95°F during the day. Humidity should be about 60%. Normal household humidity is NOT usually adequate and misting should be done to help bring up humidity.

A shed can get stuck if it is not humid enough. Mist or soak snakes during sheds to help prevent stuck sheds.

Many snakes will defecate in their water dish so be sure to change water dishes daily.