Colombian Rainbow Boa

Epicrates cenchria maurus

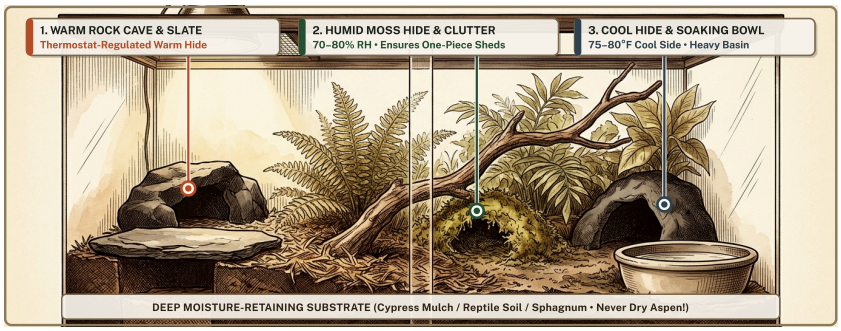


The Quick Version: Colombian Rainbow Boas have microscopic prism ridges on their scales that catch the light like a soap bubble and shimmer with a full rainbow! Whether you choose a classic patterned Rainbow Boa or an ivory-white Leucistic morph, the secret to keeping them happy is high humidity (70–85%) and a **cooler warm spot (84–86°F max!)** than other snakes.

LIFESPAN	ADULT SIZE	ACTIVE HOURS	ADULT TANK	MAX WARMTH
20–25+ Years	4.5–6 Feet	Dusk & Night	40B / 36×18"+ Tank	84°–86°F (Not Hot!)

1. High-Humidity & Gentle-Warmth Tank Setup

BIG RULE: HIGH HUMIDITY (70–85% RH) + NEVER LET THE WARM SPOT PASS 86–88°F!



Warm Cave / Belly Spot BIG RULE: Keep at 84–86°F (Never over 88°F!)	84°–86°F
Warm Side Air Temp Gentle shaded rainforest warmth	78°–82°F
Tank Humidity 75–85% RH for Babies • 65–75% RH for Adults	70–85% RH
Cool Side Temp With a big soaking bowl & cool cave	73°–76°F
Nighttime Temp Use a lightless heater or heat mat on thermostat	72°–75°F

2. Two Ways That Work — Pick What Fits Your Home

SHORT & SWEET: BOTH OPTIONS WORK GREAT

Locking 75%+ Humidity Into a Glass Terrarium

Baby Rainbow Boas dry out fast in open-screen tanks — here's how to lock that rainforest moisture right in:

OPTION A: FRONT-OPENING GLASS TERRARIUM + COVERED SCREEN (OUR TOP PICK)

Cover 75–80% of the top mesh with a clear liner, use 4" of damp Reptisoil + Cypress + Sphagnum moss, and seed with **Dwarf White**, **Powder Orange/Blue**, or **Cubaris Isopods + Springtails**!

OPTION B: 20L / 40-GAL BREEDER TANK + ENCLOSED HUMID MOSS CAVE

Clip the screen lid tight, cover 75% of the screen top, and give your boa an enclosed humid hide packed with damp moss 24/7.

Heating: Keep It Gentle! (84–86°F on a Thermostat)

Big No-No: don't set a Rainbow Boa tank to 92°F like a Ball Python! Temps over 88°F make Rainbow Boas regurgitate:

OPTION A: UNDER-TANK HEAT MAT + DIGITAL THERMOSTAT (OUR TOP PICK)

Warms the floor under the warm cave to 85°F without drying out the humid tank air.

OPTION B: DEEP HEAT PROJECTOR (DHP) OR CERAMIC HEAT EMITTER

Gives gentle lightless warmth from above — always plug into a digital thermostat set strictly to 85°F.

Lighting to Show Off That Rainbow Shimmer

Rainbow Boas do most of their exploring after dusk, so keep daytime lighting gentle:

OPTION A: LOW-OUTPUT SHADE UVB (5%–6%) FILTERED THROUGH LEAVES

Shows off that unreal prism-rainbow shimmer across their scales whenever they come out at dusk.

OPTION B: SOFT AMBIENT LED LIGHT + DARK CAVES

A gentle day/night light cycle with pitch-dark caves so your boa feels tucked in safe all day.

Flip Over for Page 2: Feeding Schedule, Team Tips & Grab-and-Go Checklist →

3. Feeding Guide (Frozen/Thawed Mice & Rats)

SLOW & STEADY DIGESTORS: FEED 1 RODENT THE SAME WIDTH AS YOUR BOA'S BELLY

Babies	Every 7–10 Days	**1 Thawed Hopper Mouse or Rat Fuzzy:** Boas digest slower than corn snakes — never rush meal sizes or feed two days in a row!
Sub-Adults	Every 10–14 Days	**1 Weaned Rat to Small Rat:** Switching from mice to rats early gives them the best muscle growth.
Adults	Every 14–21 Days	**1 Small to Medium Rat:** One medium rat every 2–3 weeks keeps an adult Rainbow Boa sleek, muscular, and healthy.

Team Rules for Happy Boa Digestion:

- **1. Frozen/Thawed Only** — Never risk a live rodent biting those iridescent scales!
- **2. Thaw in Fridge & Warm (~98°F)** — Thaw in fridge, then warm sealed baggy in warm water
- **3. Feed at Dusk** — They're nocturnal ambush hunters that strike fast at dusk
- **4. Hands Off for 72 Hrs!** — Give Boas a full 2–3 days of zero handling after eating!

Why the 84–86°F Rule Matters So Much: Rainbow Boas come from shaded, humid river valleys rather than hot deserts. Keeping their warm spot at a gentle **84–86°F** and leaving them completely alone for 48–72 hours after eating prevents regurgitation!

4. Tips, Tricks & Big No-Nos from Our Reptile Team

REAL-WORLD HABITS THAT KEEP THEM THRIVING

Keep Babies at 75–85% RH

Baby Rainbow Boas need damp (not soupy!) soil/cypress bedding and a damp moss cave 24/7 so they never get dehydrated or stuck shed.

Double-Check the Thermostat

Use a temp gun or digital probe right inside the warm hide to verify it sits right at 84–86°F.

Big Heavy Soaking Bowl

Give them a wide, heavy ceramic water dish big enough to coil their whole body inside — they love taking a dip before shedding!

Confident Baby Handling

Little babies can be nippy at first because they think everything is a giant bird! Scoop confidently from underneath and they mellow out fast as they grow.

5. Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

ASK US ON THE FLOOR — WE'LL HELP YOU MATCH EVERYTHING!

HUMIDITY-LOCKING TANK & BEDDING

- [ ] Front-Opening Glass Terrarium or 40-Gal Breeder Tank + Screen Clips
- [ ] Reptisoil + Forest Floor Cypress Mulch Blend (4" deep!)
- [ ] Sphagnum Moss (mixed into soil & inside the humid cave)
- [ ] Cork Bark Tubes, Sturdy Branches & Leafy Clutter

LOW-TEMP HEATING & THERMOSTAT

- [ ] Digital Thermostat (Set Strictly to 85°F!)
- [ ] 50W–80W Deep Heat Projector (DHP) or Under-Tank Heat Mat
- [ ] Digital Probe Thermometer & Hygrometer

CAVES, BIG SOAK BOWL & TONGS

- [ ] 2 Snug Dark Caves (Warm & Cool) + Humid Moss Box
- [ ] Extra-Large Heavy Ceramic Water Bowl + Dechlorinator
- [ ] Long Stainless Steel Feeding Tongs + Frozen Mice / Rats

A Quick Note from Our Team — Keep Learning & Ask Us Anytime!

The quick version: there's more than one right way to set up a great enclosure! As long as your temperatures, humidity, and diet are dialed in, your pet doesn't care whether its cave is fancy resin or a terra-cotta pot. Bringing home this critter is a **20–25+ year commitment** — use these two pages as your home-base cheat sheet, watch what your pet tells you with their daily behavior, find a good local exotic vet, and call or stop by the shop anytime you have questions!

MY RAINBOW BOA'S INFO

Name / Morph: _____

Current Diet: _____

Date Adopted: _____