INSIDE FLAP • KEEPER HABITS

4 Keys to Long-Term Health

Small Daily Habits That Prevent 95% of Vet Visits

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.

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!

BACK COVER • TAKE THIS TO THE AISLE

Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

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

MY RAINBOW BOA'S INFO & FEEDING LOG

Name / Morph: _____

Gotcha Date & Weight: _____

Current Feeder Size & Day: _____

Critter Cabana & Cascade Pet Supply

Questions about heating, shedding, or a picky eater? Stop by or call our reptile team anytime — we're here for the full 20–25+ year commitment!

CRITTER CABANA & CASCADE PET SUPPLY • CARE GUIDE

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.

QUICK VITAL STATS AT-A-GLANCE

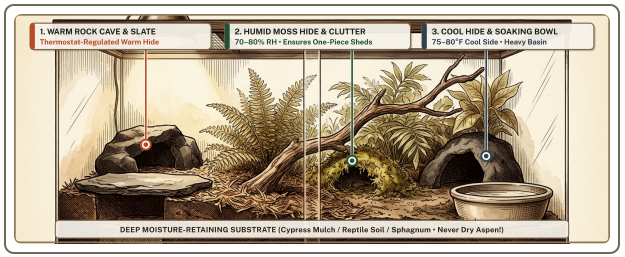
LIFESPAN **20–25+ Years**	ADULT SIZE **4.5–6 Feet**
ACTIVE HOURS **Dusk & Night**	ADULT TANK **40B / 36×18"+ Tank**
MAX WARMTH **84°–86°F (Not Hot!)**	

OPEN FOR TANK SETUP, TEMPS, FEEDING & SHOPPING LIST →

STEP 1 • HABITAT & CLIMATE

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**

Thermostat & Gauge Rule: Stick-on dial gauges can be off by 10°F+! Use a digital probe thermometer/hygrometer and always plug heating mats and heat emitters into a **digital thermostat**.

STEP 2 • STOCKED STORE OPTIONS

Two Ways That Work

Pick Option A or Option B Based on Your Home Setup

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 cut-to-fit liner or foil tape, and use 4 inches of damp Reptisoil + Forest Floor Cypress + Sphagnum moss!

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.

STEP 3 • DIET & NUTRITION

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!

First-Week Rule: Give your new Colombian Rainbow Boa **5 to 7 days of peace and quiet** in its new tank before handling or offering its very first meal so it can map out its hides and feel safe!