

Dumeril's Boa Care Sheet



- Quick facts

- Adult Size: 6–9 feet (females are larger)
- Lifespan: 15–20+ years in captivity
- Difficulty: Advanced beginner to Intermediate

- Handling & Temperament

- Typically calm and tolerant of handling
- Always support the body and avoid sudden movements
- Start with short sessions and build trust

- Temperature & Humidity

- Temps:
 - Warm side: 88-99F
 - Cool side: 75-80F
 - Night: Can drop to 70-75F
- Heating: Always use a thermostat to control heat sources!
 - Radiant heat panel, heat tape, ceramic heat emitter, basking bulb
 - Avoid hot rocks
- Humidity:
 - Optimal: 50-60%, can tolerate brief dips and rises
 - Mist occasionally or use a humidity box if needed
 - Monitor with a hygrometer

- Health & Common Issues

- Signs of good health: Clear eyes, firm body, regular eating, consistent shed cycles
- Watch for: Respiratory infections, mites, retained sheds, regurgitation
- Vet care: Find an experienced reptile vet for annual checkups or if health issues arise

- Feeding

- Diet:
 - Rodents, appropriately sized should be no wider than the widest part of the snake
 - Quail or other avian can be fed as well for variety
- Frequency:
 - Juveniles: Every 7-10 days
 - Adults: Every 10-21 days
 - Adjust based on body condition and growth
- Notes:
 - Feed pre-killed or frozen/thawed
 - Do not handle for 24-48 hours after feeding to reduce risk of regurgitation

- Enclosure

- Juveniles: Minimum of 20 gallon long or equivalent
- Adults: 4'x2'x1.5' minimum but recommend larger like a 6'x2'
- Substrate
 - Recommended: Cypress mulch, Aspen, Coconut husk, or Bioactive substrate
 - Avoid: Pine or Cedar (toxic)
- Hides & Enrichment
 - At least 2 hides, one on the cool side and one on the warm side, branches and foliage to add clutter to create security
 - Provide a water dish large enough for soaking
- Cleaning & Maintenance
 - Spot clean waste as early as possible with a full deep clean every 4-8 weeks or as needed. Replacing substrate and disinfecting the enclosure during deep clean.

- Lighting

- A day night cycle of 12hr on/off helps with natural rhythms
- UVB is optional

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- Is a Dumeril's Boa right for you?
 - Great choice if you want:
 - A big snake without python-level attitude
 - A calm, handleable species
 - A long term companion
 - Not ideal if:
 - Want something that will stay small
 - Don't have room for a 4-6ft enclosure
 - Don't want a 15-20+ year commitment

- Final Tips
 - Dumeril's Boas are ambush predators - don't expect lots of movement.
 - They do best with consistent low-stress environments
 - Excellent for intermediate keepers wanting a large but manageable boa.

Shopping List

	40-50 gallon for Juvenile or 4'x2'x2' minimum for adult
	Radiant heat panel or deep heat projector
	Thermostat
	Digital thermometer/hygrometer
	Substrate (Cypress mulch, Coco husk, Bioactive)
	Decor (hides, decorations, Large water bowl)
	Feeding tongs
	Frozen thawed appropriate size food
	Low UVB strip light (optional)