Aurora ANIMAL + HOSPITAL
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Kenyan Sand Boa Care

Please note these care sheets are intended for the average reptile owner to ensure that your pet is receiving basic care needed to have a healthy life and there are other aspects of advanced care that can be considered for healthy pets.

Brief Description
Kenyan sand boas *(Eryx colubrinus loveridgei)* are popular pet snakes, especially for beginners, due to their smaller size and comparatively easy care requirements. They are native to Kenya and surrounding regions in Africa. Captive breeding has produced a variety of color patterns. Adults can get up to 2 feet in length but the average is 1-1.5 feet in length.



Lifespan
With good care the expected lifespan is 15-20 years on average.

Sexing
The most common way to determine gender of snakes is to have them probed by an experienced professional, where the hemipene pocket length is measured to determine if it male or female. Males will have much deeper pockets than females.

Caging
Cages can range from very simple to very elaborate. Ideally your snake should have enough room to stretch the entire length of its body straight without touching the ends, and many snakes tend to do well in 20-40 gallon tanks. The lid of the enclosure needs to be secure as snakes can stretch to the top and forcibly push a lid off. The cage should contain at least two hides that have one opening and allow the snake to fit snugly within it. Lack of appropriate hides will cause stress. Sand boas should be kept individually.

Substrate
Sand boas are avid burrowers and enjoy making tunnels in their substrate. Aspen shavings work well for allowing burrowing while being easy to keep clean. A half and half mix of sand and and coco fiber or fertilizer free topsoil can be used to allow burrowing, but it can be difficult to find your snake and needs to be cleaned regularly.

Lighting and Temperature
Reptiles are ectotherms (cold-blooded), meaning they need to absorb heat from their environment to regulate their own body heat since they cannot produce it. The basking spot should be around **85-90 degrees** at the level of the basking spot for 10-12 hours every day and the cooler end of the cage should be kept around **70-75 degrees**. A thermometer should be placed at both ends of the cage to accurately measure temperatures. Hognose snakes do not require UVB lighting, however recent research suggests that they may benefit from it. Providing UVB should be considered.

Humidity
Humidity in the enclosure should be 40-60% and should be monitored by a hygrometer. Inadequate humidity will affect your reptile's ability to shed its skin properly and can cause serious problems.

Water
A shallow water dish with fresh water at least big enough for your whole snake's body to fit in curled up should be available at all times. The dishes used under potted plants are excellent for water dishes and inexpensive. Snakes enjoy full body soakings but often defecate in their water so it needs to be cleaned often.

Food
Young sand boas should be fed once to twice weekly, whereas adults can be fed every week. Appropriately sized prey should be no bigger in circumference than the snake at its largest circumference. Feeding thawed frozen prey is preferred as offering live prey can lead to a more aggressive snake and potential injury to the snake that can be very severe. Frozen prey should be warmed to near body temperature to stimulate your snake to eat it.