



Amazon Tree Boa

Corallus hortulantus



Gigi

I was born **September 18th, 2013**. My home is in the Discovery Center at the Racine Zoo. My keepers would describe me as an independent, spunky, go-getter girl. I prefer my personal space, but I am curious when guests come to visit me!

AMAZON TREE BOAS

Male::
5-7ft long
1-3lbs

Female:
5-7ft long
1-3lbs

- Amazon tree boas occur in a wide variety of colors and patterns including blacks, browns, grays, reds, yellows, and oranges with speckling, banding, chevron patterns or no pattern at all.
- Amazon tree boas have large infrared receptors called pits on the upper lip, which allow them to sense heat when hunting at night.
- They have long front teeth for grasping and holding onto birds with slippery feathers.
- Diet in the wild consists of birds, bats, frogs, rodents, lizards, and marsupials.
- At the zoo, our Amazon tree boa eats small rodents.



27-41 inch tail

Avg. life expectancy in native habitats:
15-20 years
Avg. life expectancy in human care:
20 years

WHERE ARE AMAZON TREE BOA HABITATS LOCATED?



Amazon Tree Boas have historically lived throughout most of the South American continent from Peru to Eastern Brazil. They typically live in tropical dry forest and grasslands.

Amazon Tree Boa Behaviors

SLEEPING

Many snakes don't have eyelids like humans do. While sleeping, their brains are unconscious, but their eyes remain open.

Amazon tree boas need a cycle of 12 daylight hours to 12 nighttime hours.



SMELLING

Snakes use their tongues to smell - sensing the environment around them.

Their forked tongue enables them to smell in two different directions simultaneously.



DEFENSIVE

Amazon tree boas are ambush hunters and curl the front of their body into an S-shape to strike prey at a distance and for defense.

Agitated tree boas may release a musky, bad-smelling liquid from its tail that is hard to wash off.



YAWNING

Snakes do a yawning motion to stretch out their jaw before and after eating.

Humans yawn to express tiredness, stretch out jaw muscles, find inner ear equilibrium, and to increase oxygen to the brain.

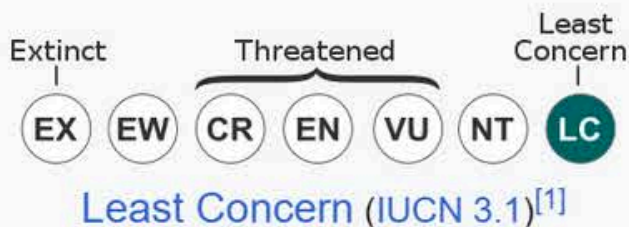


- Amazon tree boas spend most of their lives in trees and only rarely come to the ground, but sometimes find a quiet corner on the ground to rest.
- Unlike most snake species, Amazon Tree Boas are viviparous, which means they give live birth instead of laying eggs. The females carry the developing embryos internally, nourishing them until they are ready to be born.
- The Amazon tree boa is a non-venomous snake but is known for being very aggressive. They will often hang from trees in an S-shape in order to strike at prey.
- Amazon tree boas are aggressive and will attack humans without warning, though only adults pose any serious danger to humans as this species is non-venomous.

Amazon Tree Boa Conservation

Predators like Amazon Tree Boas are very important to their habitat. Predators disperse rich nutrients and influence the structure of ecosystems by regulating the vertebrate population.

Amazon Tree Boas are of **least concern**, however, are currently facing threats due to habitat loss and deforestation.



How can we help?

We can help by buying sustainable products, such as wood from sustainable foresters and household paper products made from recycled paper. Buy products certified by programs such as Rainforest Alliance or Forest Stewardship Council, which promote sustainable farm and forestry practices.