



Kenyan Sand Boa *Eryx colunbrinus*

Description: Kenyan sand boas are a small species of boa. They weigh in at about 70 grams and reach a little over a foot long. They have intricate patterns on their bodies, usually black to dark brown and yellow-orange with cream colored bellies.

Range: Sand boas are found in East Africa particularly Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Chad, Niger, Yemen, Tanzania, and Somalia.

Habitat: They are found in arid areas but will seek shelter in humid microclimates, like under rocks.

Life Span: Sand boas will on average live well into their teens but haven been known to live to 30 years in captivity.

Natural Diet: In the wild, they will feed on insects, lizards, and small rodents, using constriction to subdue and kill their prey.

Zoo Diet: Mice once a week.

Behavior: Living in the sand, they spend much of their time buried beneath the ground and will only leave their nose exposed above the sand.

Reproduction: These snakes are ovoviviparous (young develop inside egg sacs incubated inside the female's body). The young hatch live after a gestation period of four months inside the female's body. She gives birth to five to 12 offspring. The young are completely independent at birth.

