



Rubber Boa

Charina bottae

Description: The rubber boa is often called the two headed snake because of their blunt tail. This effect helps ward off possible predators. They are small snakes with a smooth brown to black color, often young rubber boas are mistaken for earth worms.

Range: They are mainly found in the northwestern United States, but collection for pet trade has relocated them to other areas. These populations do not usually survive.

Habitat: Rubber boas are found in moist climates, anywhere from sea level to 10,000ft. They can also live in drier regions but will burrow underground to find moisture.

Life Span: In captivity they can live about 30 years, but researchers have identified boas that are 50 years old.

Natural Diet: In the wild, small mammals and insects.

Zoo Diet: Mice once a week.

Behavior: These snakes are nocturnal (active at night). Being in a cooler climate, these reptiles have a danger of getting too cold. They have a unique ability to keep the internal temperature of their heads warmer than that of the rest of their body. This enables them to survive the harsh winters of the pacific northwest.

Reproduction: Breeding does not take place every year, but only in