

Snakes 101:

Introduction to pet snakes

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www.snakehaus.com



Topics to be covered

1) Special anatomy and other adaptations

Bathroom Break

2) Common pet snake identification and behavior*

Lunch break

3) Husbandry: basic care & when to intervene

Bathroom break

4) Handling techniques & meet the giants*

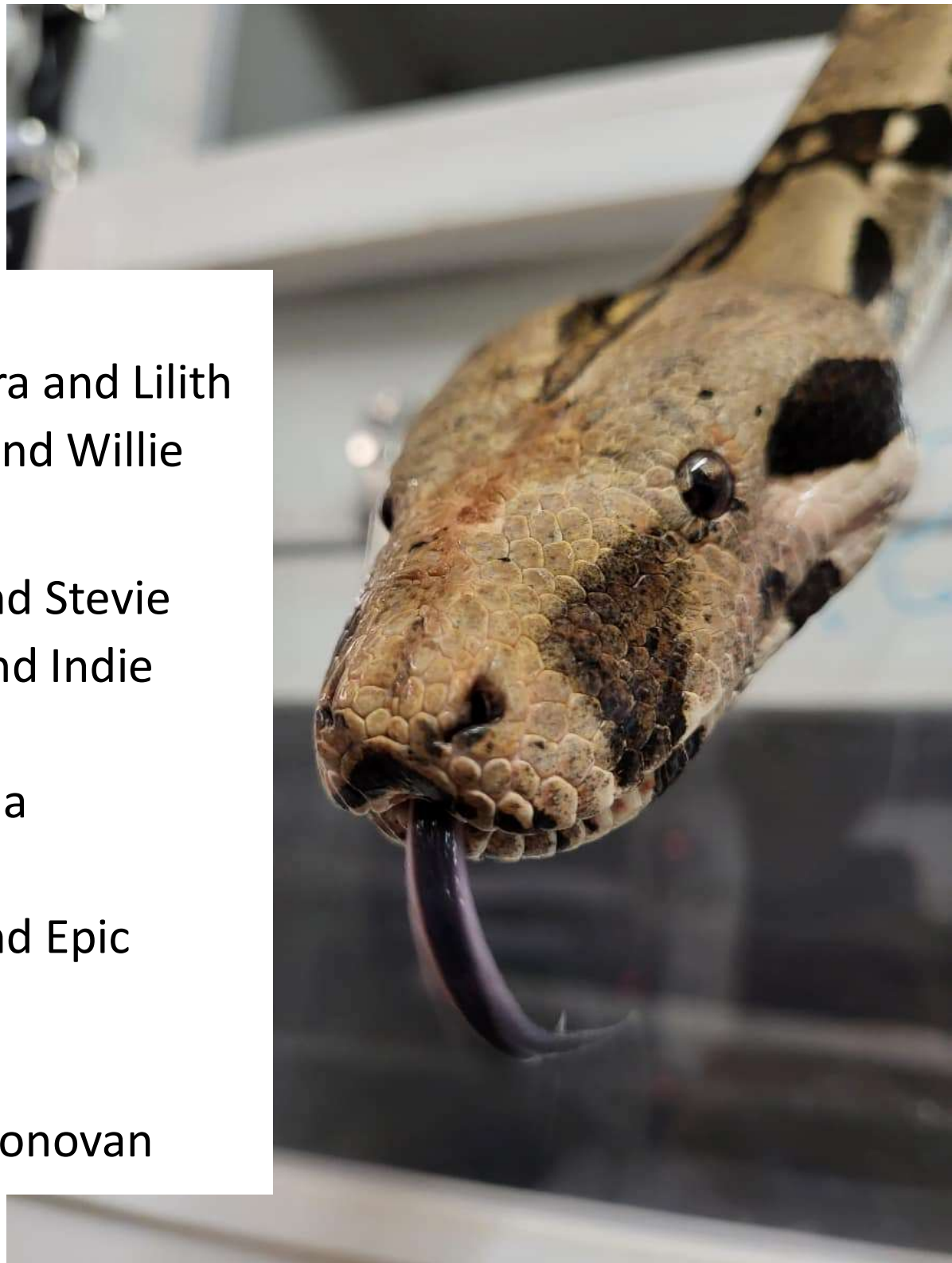
Class Roster:

Giants: (4)

- Reticulated Pythons: Mara and Lilith
- Burmese Pythons: Etna and Willie

Normal size: (12)

- Ball Pythons: Malcolm and Stevie
- Carpet Pythons: Sallah and Indie
- Reticulated Python: Eve
- Burmese Python: Orellana
- Blood python: Ash
- Common Boas: Harley and Epic
- Argentine Boa: Cara
- Dumerils Boa: Freddie
- Brazilian Rainbow Boa: Donovan

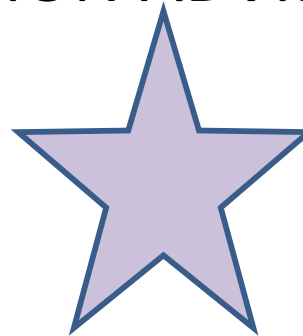
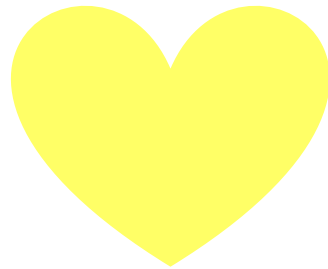


Special clues

YELLOW SLIDE = KEY INFO

BLUE SLIDE = BREAK TIME

**Yellow heart or Purple star =
VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED**



www.snakehaus.com = follow links to online sources
(in the digital copy of your notes)

Who are we?

Sara Mayes DVM: Cascade Animal Clinic, Monroe

Nicky Finch DVM: WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Kami Wasilchen LVT: Cascade Animal Clinic, Monroe

Mirko Mayes: Facility Coordinator Blue Pearl, Kirkland



501(c)(3) Non-profit & 509(a)(2) Public Charity
Snakes that are difficult to place or rehome

What do we do? *giants*



What do we do?

Medical



VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED



Behavioral



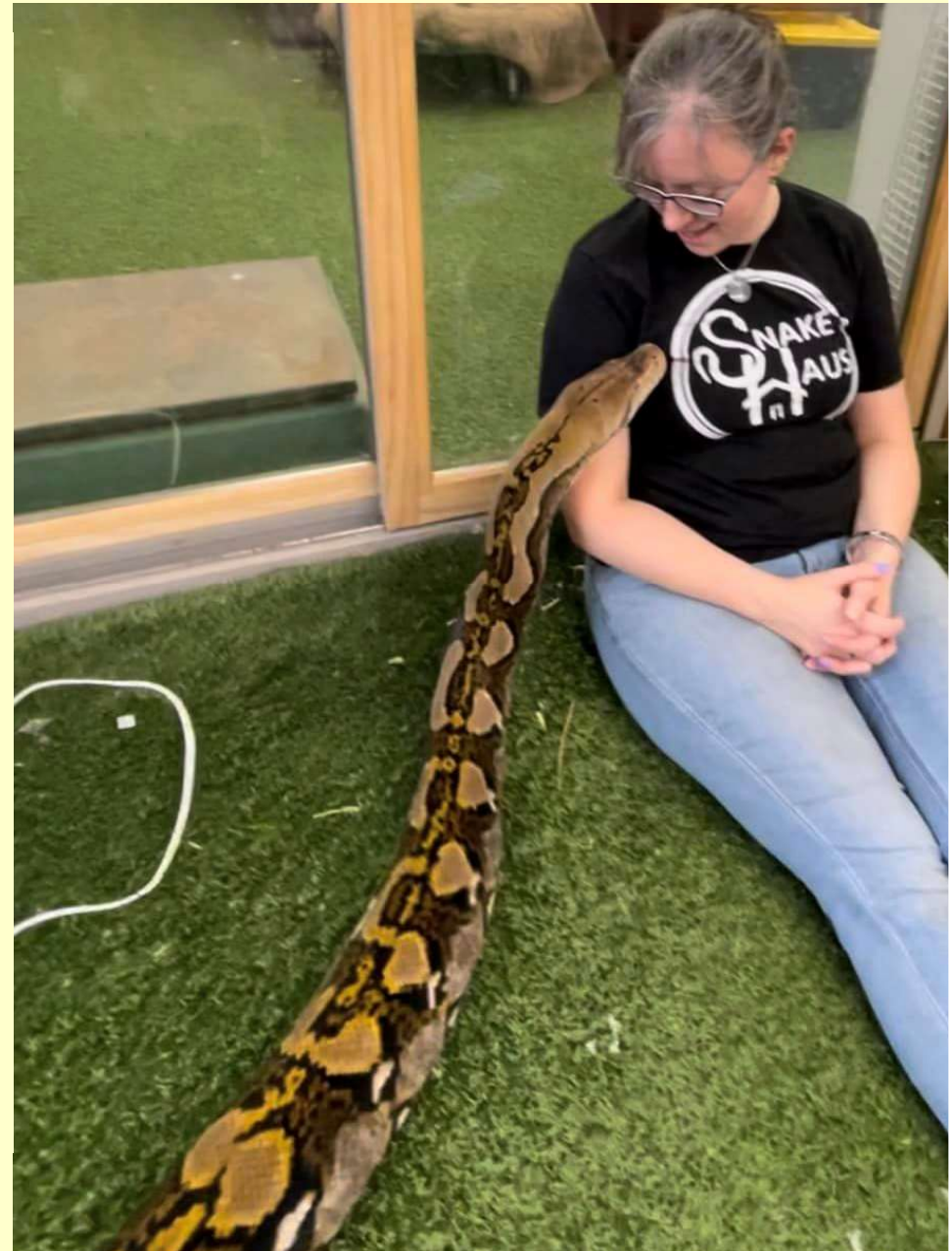
What do we do? *surgery*



**Snake Haus West
Facility: tx, sx, icu**

What makes snakes unique?

- **Ectotherms:** solar powered
- **Thermoreception:** heat pits
- **Special anatomy:**
 - No eyelids or ears
 - Shed cycle
 - Flexible jaw and airway
 - Smell with their tongue
 - No legs, ribs, spurs
- **Organs:**
 - One lung and no diaphragm
 - Renal portal system
 - No urinary bladder
- **Venomous vs Poisonous**



Ectotherms: solar powered



An energy saving adaptation that gives them the ability to feed infrequently

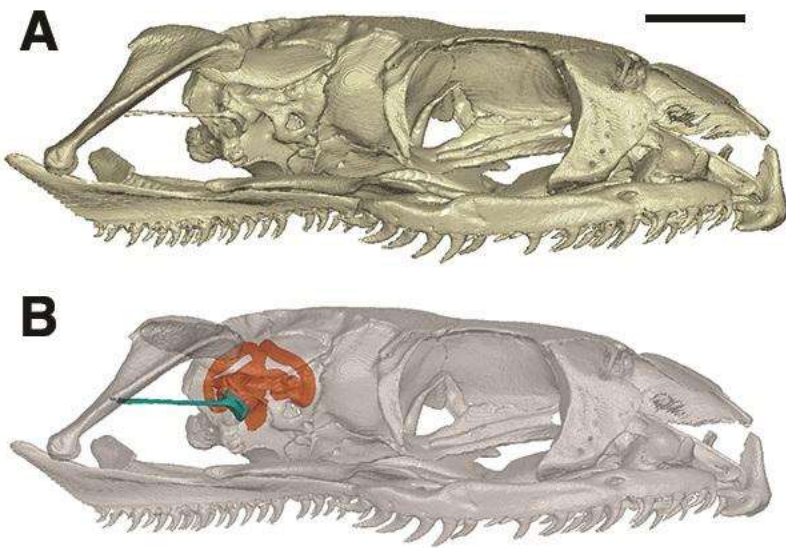
Large body surface area needs to be exposed to heat

- **Poikliotherm:** adapted to temp variations – frogs, marine life, desert species, camel
- **Homeotherm:** requires stable temps (most mammals)

Why is this important to us? *Heat MUST be provided in captivity*

Ears: where are they?

- No outward ear
- Inner ear senses vibrations



Source:

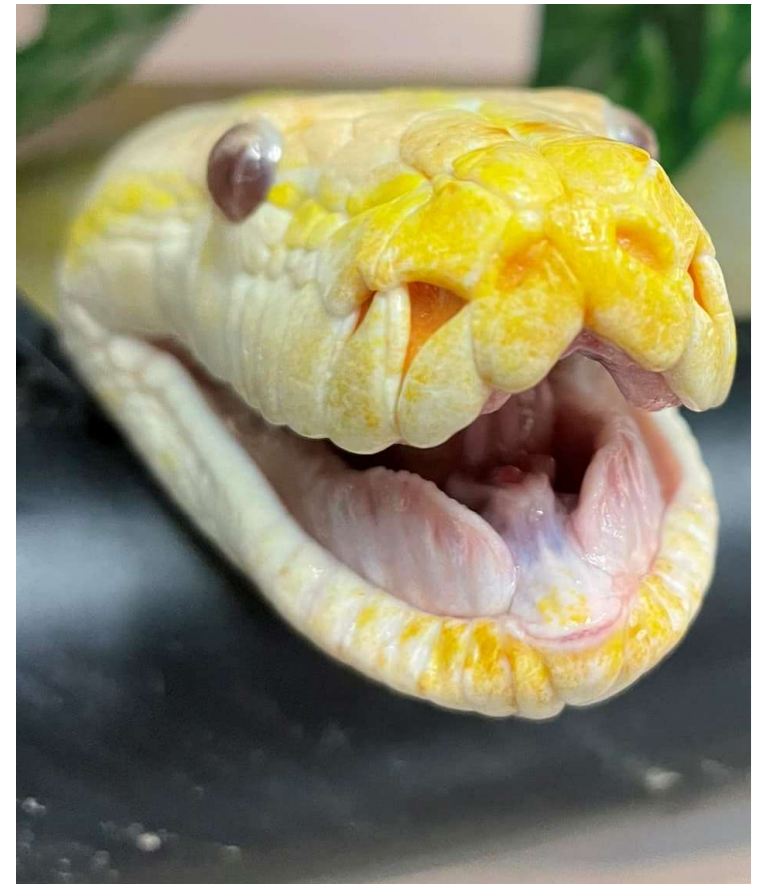
<https://www.eurekalert.org/multimedia/877311>



Why is this important to us? *Enclosure location and communication*

Thermoreception: Heat pits

- Special nerve cells that sense infrared radiation
- Directional distance receptors



Why is this important to us? *Important for husbandry, handling and feeding*

Special anatomy: No eyelids



Spectacle – this is a modified scale that acts like a contact lens and protects the eye instead of lids.



Why is this important to us? *Sleep with their eyes open*



Shed cycle: a snake super power

- Skin does not stretch and grow
- Scales do not stretch and grow
- New scales are not added with growth – scale counts remain the same for life
→ so how does a snake grow??

Shed cycle: growing an entire new layer of skin and shedding the old.
Without doing this they would be trapped in the skin as they grow.



Why is this important to us? *Requires correct humidity*



Vomeronasal Organ

- Snakes & lizards – the tongue
- Cats – the “stinky face”
- Bats, Rats, Dogs
- Primates: vestigial in humans



Why is this important to us? *Nothing sinister; NOT indicative of impending bite*

Mobile jaw and airway

- **Flexible joints:**
maxillary and
mandibular
symphysis and the
TMJ are open.
- **Epiglottis location:**
in the base of the
tongue so it is also
mobile



Why is this important to us? *Easily injured, easy to intubate and tube feed*

Mobile jaw and airway

- **Flexible joints:**
maxillary and mandibular symphysis and the TMJ are open.
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Why is this important to us? *Easily injured, easy to intubate and tube feed*

Mobile jaw and airway

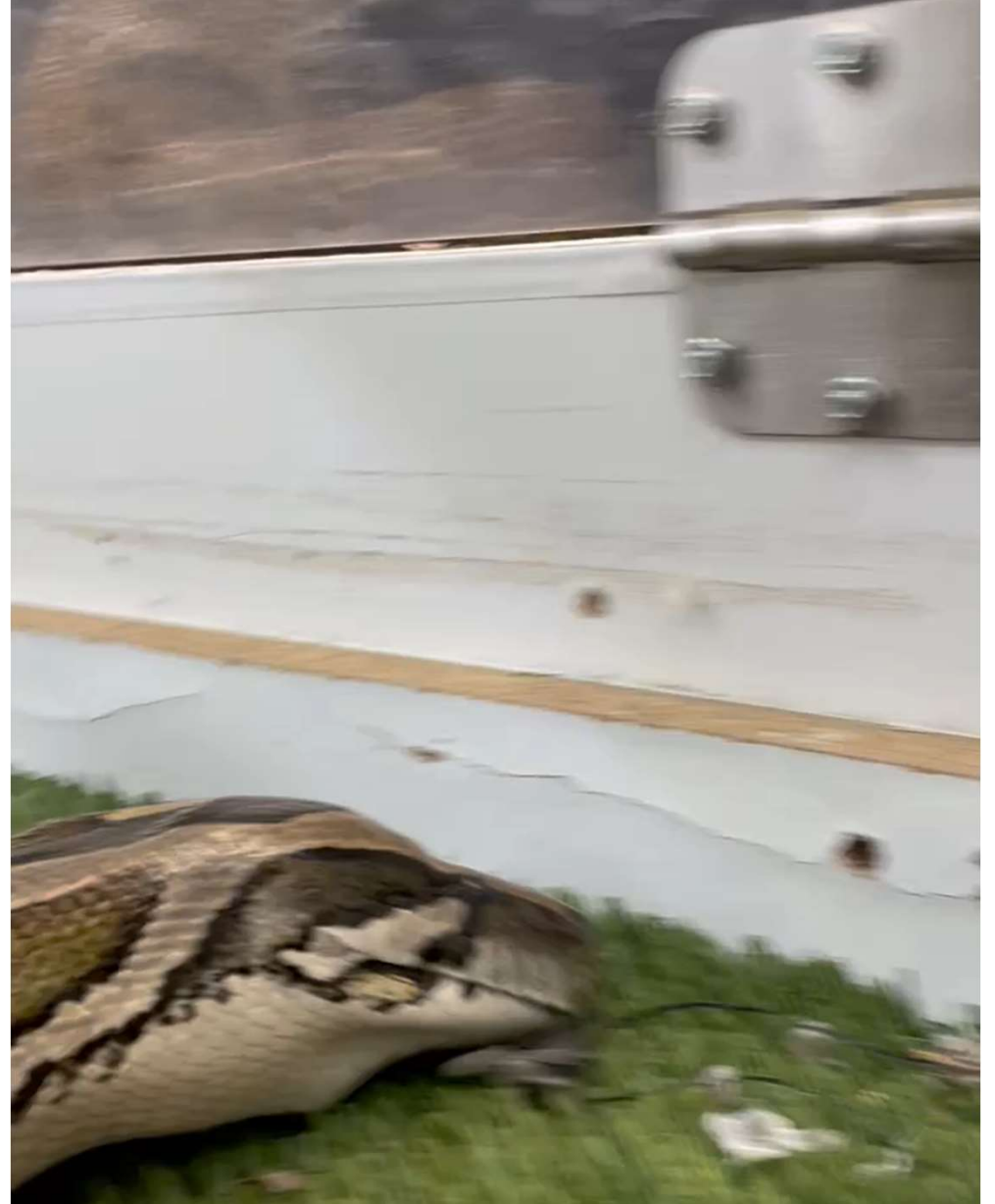


Respiratory system

- **One lung:** The left lung is vestigial or absent
 - No second lung to assist if the primary lung is injured
 - No bronchiole ciliary bodies (mucous elevator)
 - Right lung is very long but only half of it participates in gas exchange
 - Caudal half of the lung is an air sac that can fill with mucus → *behavioral body position when in respiratory distress worsens this* ***PICTURE***
 - Respiration is induced by low oxygen in the blood rather than high CO₂ like in mammals → *relevant for anesthesia b/c hyperoxygenation during forced ventilation can reduce their spontaneous respiratory reflex resulting in deeper anesthesia level and prolonged recovery*
- **No diaphragm:** Coelom is the combined chest cavity and abdominal cavity
 - Active respiration driven by rib movement which can be inhibited by things like obesity, injury, arthritis, body position, and activity level.
 - Not very good at coughing
 - Any fluid in the abdomen will also surround the lung



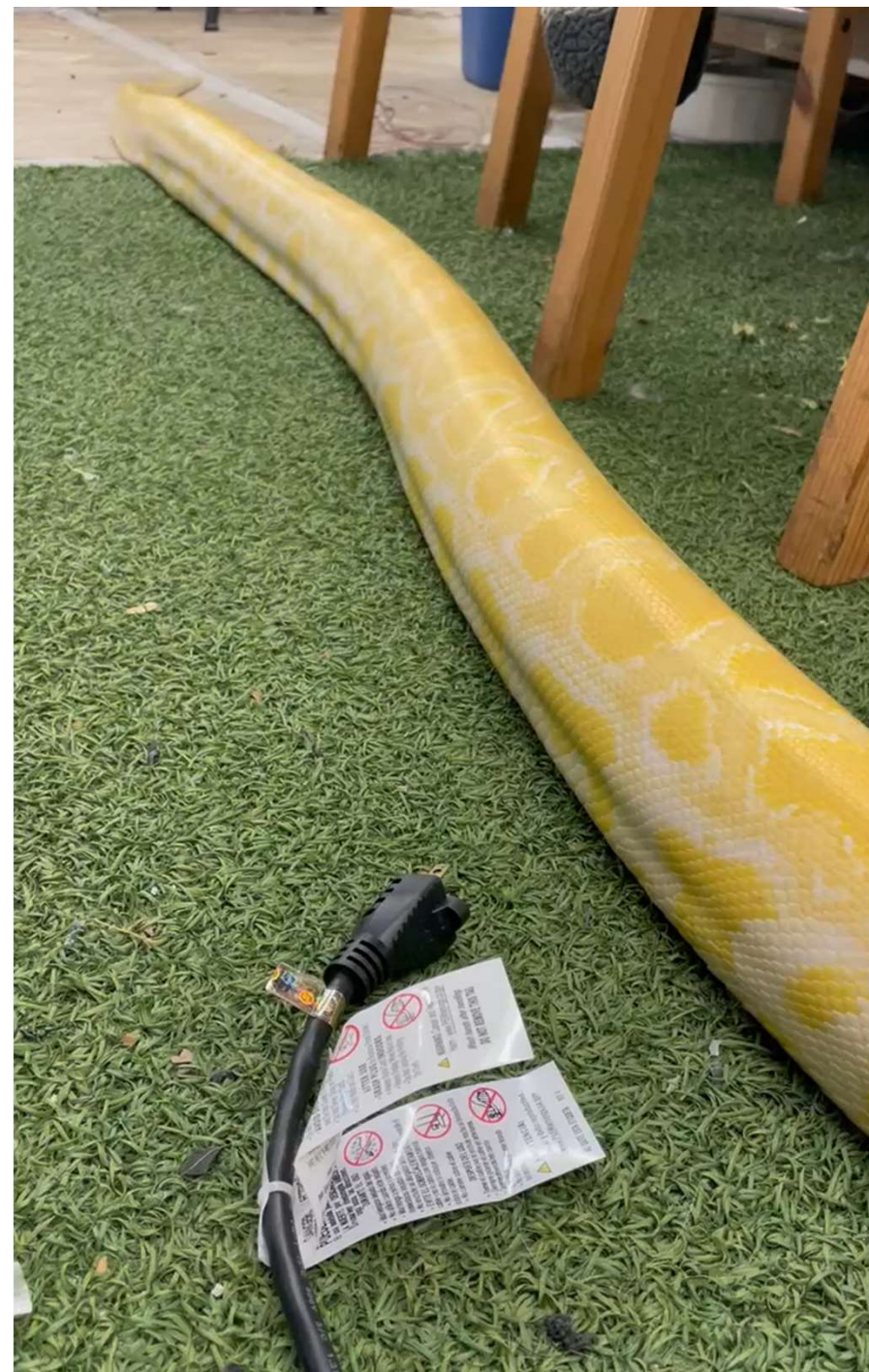
Respiratory system



Ribs instead of legs!

- Snakes use their ribs to push themselves along
 - Strong
 - Efficient
 - Fast
 - Collapsible
- More agile and mobile than other types of animals but can be injured in obese animals

Spurs: vestigial legs



Why is this important to us? *No anatomical markers for internal organs and limited sites for blood draws and IVC*

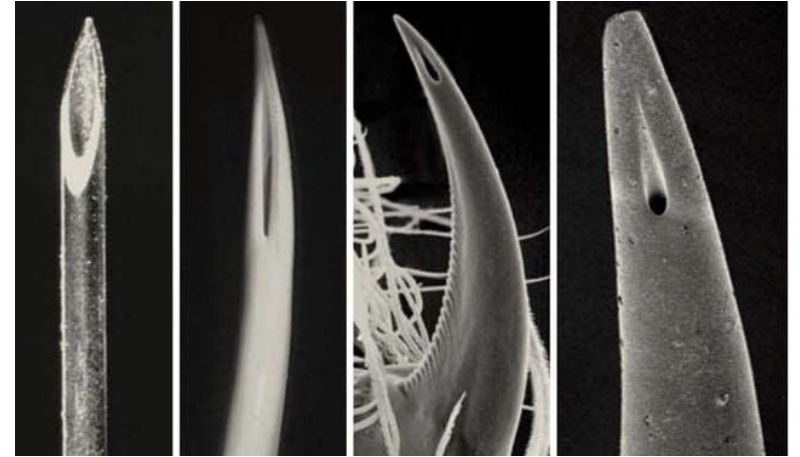
Renal system (urinary)

- **Renal portal system:** Prevents kidney damage during periods of water deprivation. Low blood volume and/or low blood pressure in mammals can result in renal ischemic necrosis. Snakes are able to shunt blood to the kidneys before the rest of the body to maintain adequate perfusion.
- **No urinary bladder:** Snakes rid their body of nitrogenous wastes via uric acid solids rather than liquid urine. This is another adaptation for water conservation as their kidneys are able to conserve much more water than mammals can.



Venomous vs Poisonous

- Venom is **INJECTED**
- Poison is **INGESTED**



- How **NOT** to tell if Venomous: *these don't work*
 - Triangle head? Pythons and boas have fat heads too
 - Elliptical pupils? Cobras and black mambas are round
 - Color? Mimicry
 - Tail rattle? Defense mechanism, corn snakes

The only way to tell:

take photos and compare to a reputable resource
for snake identification

BREAK TIME

→ Up next

Common pet snakes:
identification and behavior

Common Pet Snakes

Common Pet Snakes

- Colubrids
- Ball Pythons
- Carpets, Bloods

Giants

- Boas (the BCC's and the Colombians)
- Reticulated Python
- Burmese Python
- Anacondas

Venomous *NOT COVERED*

- **Rear fang:** Mangrove, Asian Vine Snake, False Water Cobra, Garter Snake, Hog Nose, **Boomslang**
- **Front fang:** Copperhead, Vipers Cobra, Rattlesnake, etc



Illegal reptiles: front fang venomous, water species, or native

• RCW [16.30.010](#)

• **Definitions.**

- (1) "Animal control authority" means an entity acting alone or in concert with other local governmental units for enforcement of the animal control laws of the city, county, and state and the shelter and welfare of animals.
- (2) "Potentially dangerous wild animal" means one of the following types of animals, whether bred in the wild or in captivity, and any or all hybrids thereof:
 - (a) Class mammalia
 - (i) Order carnivora
 - (A) Family felidae, only lions, tigers, captive-bred cougars, jaguars, cheetahs, leopards, snow leopards, and clouded leopards;
 - (B) Family canidae, wolves, excluding wolf-hybrids;
 - (C) Family ursidae, all bears;
 - (D) Family hyaenidae, such as hyenas;
 - (ii) Order perissodactyla, only rhinoceroses;
 - (iii) Order primates, all nonhuman primate species;
 - (iv) Order proboscidae, all elephants [elephant] species;
 - (b) Class reptilia
 - (i) Order squamata
 - (A) Family atractaspididae, all species;
 - (B) Family colubridae, only **dispholidus typus**; - **The Boomslang** (*the only rear fang on this list*)
 - (C) Family **elapidae**, all species, such as **cobras, mambas, kraits, coral snakes, and Australian tiger snakes**;
 - (D) Family hydrophiidae, all species, such as sea snakes;
 - (E) Family varanidae, only water monitors and crocodile monitors;
 - (F) Family **viperidae**, all species, such as **rattlesnakes, cottonmouths, bushmasters, puff adders, and gaboon vipers**;
 - (ii) Order crocodilia, all species, such as crocodiles, alligators, caimans, and gavials.
- (3) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, organization, trade or professional association, firm, limited liability company, joint venture, association, trust, estate, or any other legal entity, and any officer, member, shareholder, director, employee, agent, or representative thereof.
- (4) "Possessor" means any person who owns, possesses, keeps, harbors, brings into the state, or has custody or control of a potentially dangerous wild animal.
- (5) "Wildlife sanctuary" means a nonprofit organization, as described in RCW [84.36.800](#), that cares for animals defined as potentially dangerous and:
 - (a) No activity that is not inherent to the animal's nature, natural conduct, or the animal in its natural habitat is conducted;
 - (b) No commercial activity involving an animal occurs including, but not limited to, the sale of or trade in animals, animal parts, animal by-products, or animal offspring, or the sale of photographic opportunities involving an animal, or the use of an animal for any type of entertainment purpose;
 - (c) No unescorted public visitations or direct contact between the public and an animal; or
 - (d) No breeding of animals occurs in the facility.

MOST CITIES – size restrictions

Back to **common PETS**: Who's who?

Boas: the Americas

- Boas
- Anacondas

Pythons: Africa, Asia, Aus

- Retics & Burms
- Ball Pythons
- Carpets



Colubrids: every continent except Antarctica

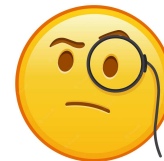
Boas – highly variable

Boa Constrictor Sub Species

- Boa C. Constrictor (BCC): True Red Tails **GIANTS!**
- Boa C. Imperator (BCI): Central American, Common, or Colombian **GIANTS & DWARFS both**
- Boa C. Longicauda and Ortonii: Peru
- Boa C. Melanogaster: Ecuador*
- Boa C. Amarali : Bolivia
- Boa C. Occidentalis: Argentina
- Boa C. Nebulosus: Dominican Island
- Boa C. Orophias: St. Lucia island

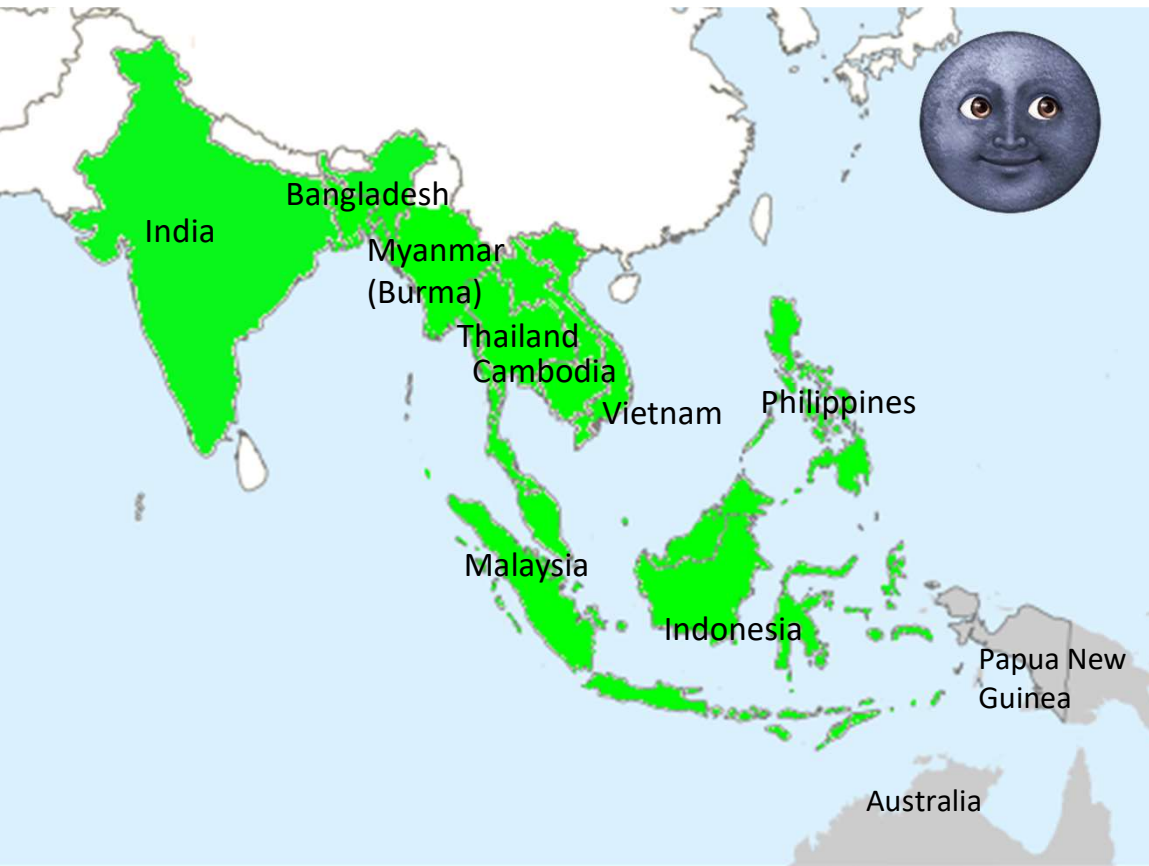
Other Boids

- Eunectes murinus or notaeus: **Anaconda**
- Epicrates cenchria: Brazilian Rainbow Boa
- Acrantophis dumerili: Dumerils Boa - Madagascar



The Giant Pythons of SE Asia

Reticulated



Burmese



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_snakes

Basic Identification

- **Colubrids:** Corns, Kings, Rats, Milk
(The largest snake family)



Pythons: Balls, Burms, Retics,
Blood, Carpets

Boas: Red Tails, Brazilian
Rainbows, Anacondas



Giants: respect their size, call for help

- Reticulated Python
- Boas (the large ones)
- Burmese Python
- Anacondas



Behavior

Colubrids – fast and agile

Pythons – variable

- Burms, Blood, and Balls: slow and cautious
- Retics, Carpets: fast and agile

Boas – slow and cautious

***LIVE
ANIMALS***

Colubrids – small and fast



Corn Snake



Colubrids – small and fast



Milk Snake



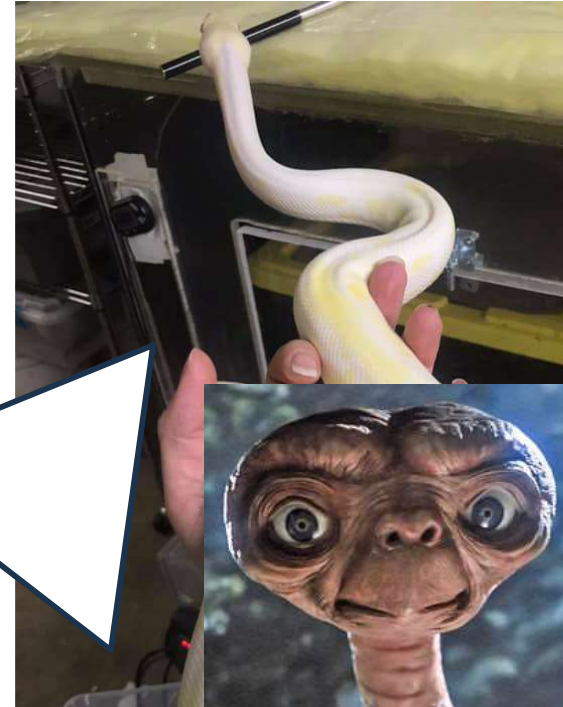
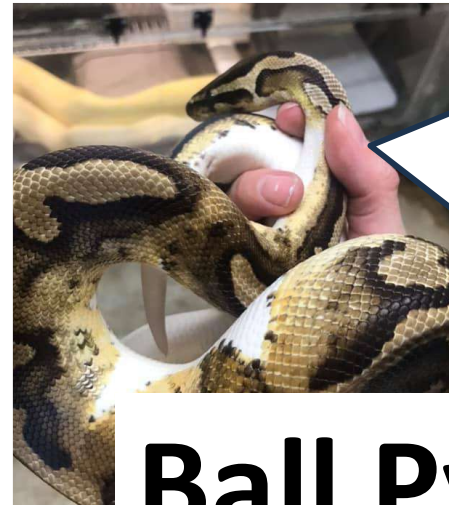
Colubrids – small and fast



King Snake



Pythons — tremendous variation



Ball Python

Pythons — tremendous variation

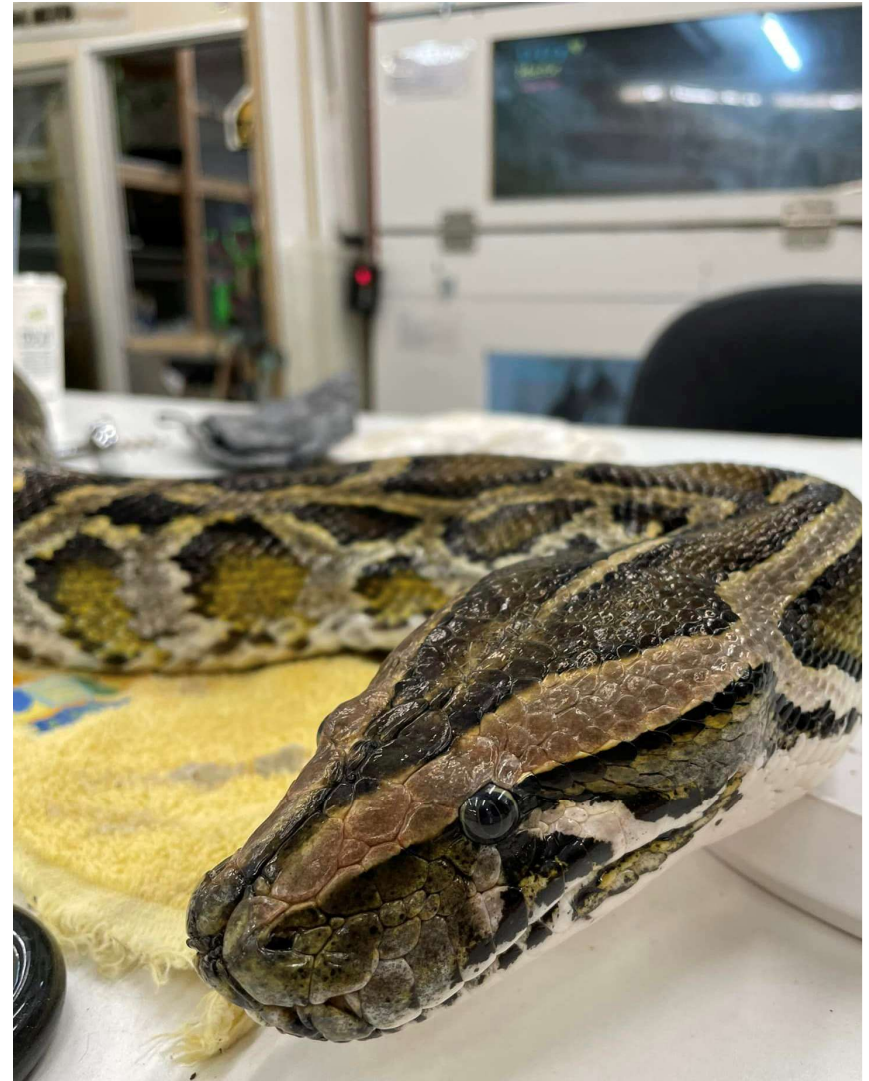


Carpet Python

Pythons – tremendous variation



Reticulated Python



Burmese Python

Pythons – tremendous variation



Reticulated Python



Burmese Python

Pythons – tremendous variation



Reticulated Python

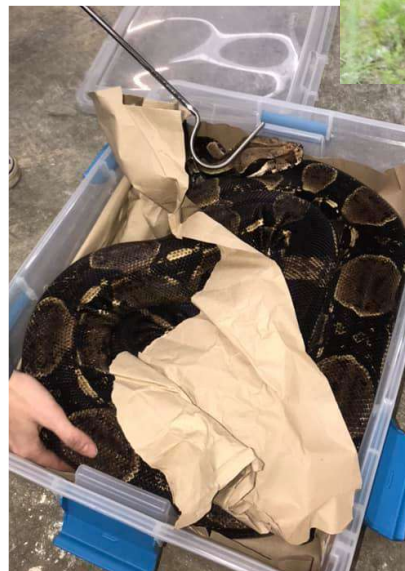
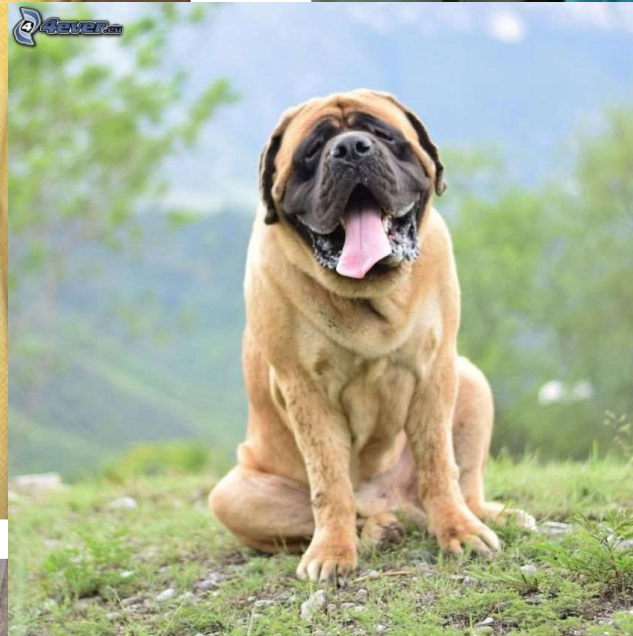


Burmese Python

Boas – Red Tails and Common Boas



Boas – Red Tails and Common Boas



Boas – other boas



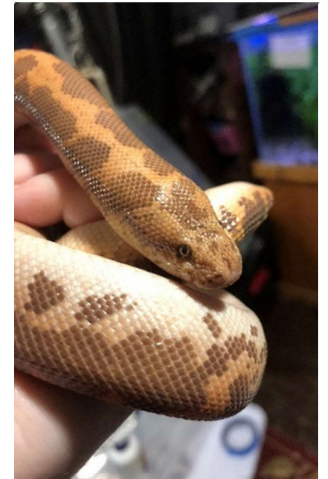
Green Anaconda



Dumerils Boa



Dumerils Boa



Sand Boa



Yellow Anaconda

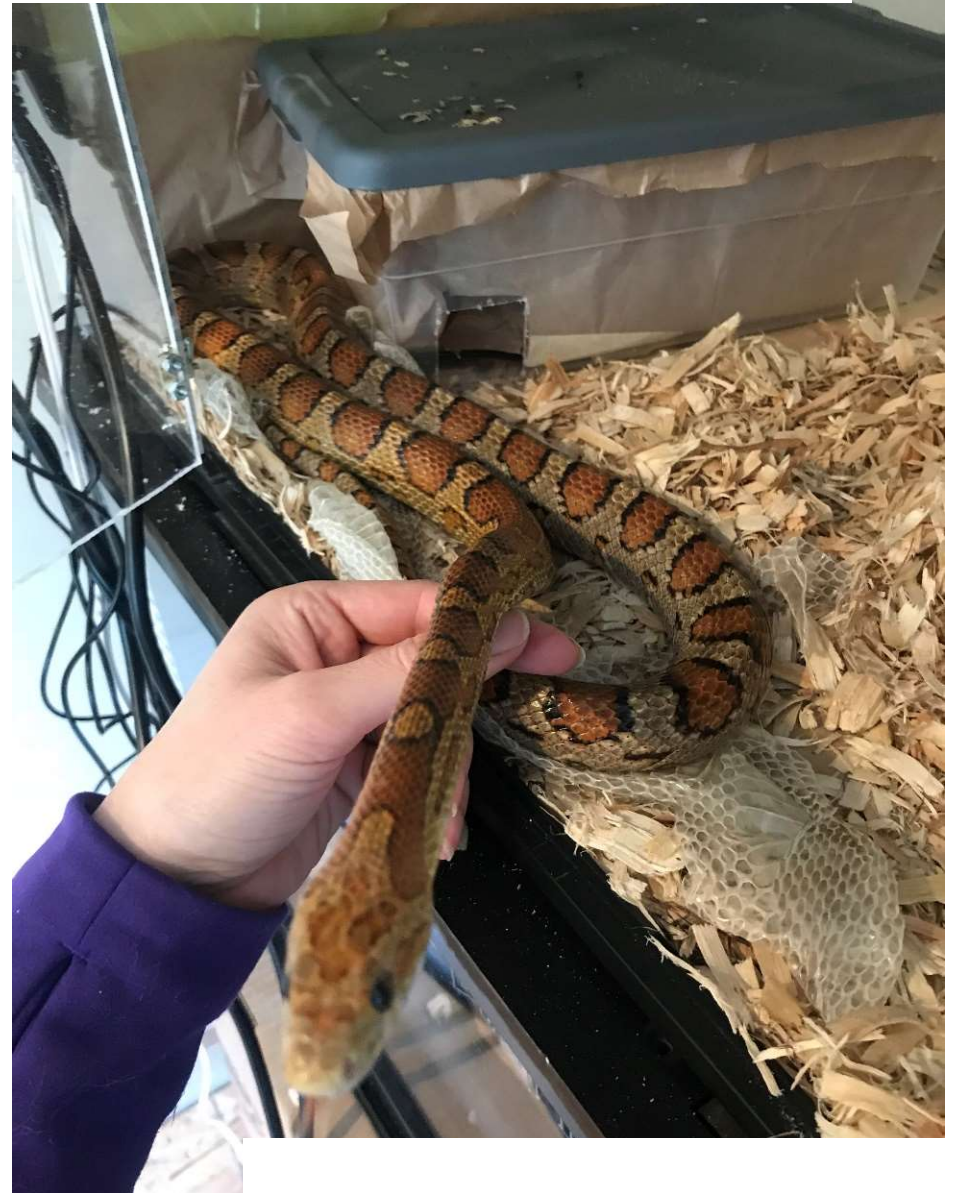


Argentine Boa



Brazilian Rainbow Boa

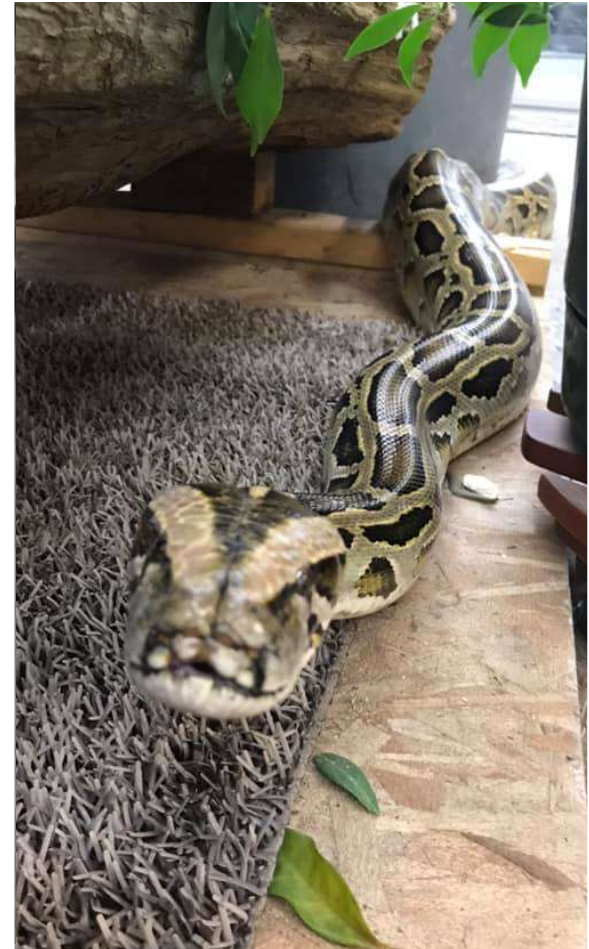
POP QUIZ – who am I?



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POP QUIZ – who am I?



POP QUIZ – who am I?



POP QUIZ – who am I?



POP QUIZ – who am I?



LUNCH TIME?

→ Up next

Husbandry:

Basic Care and When to Intervene

Husbandry & Basic Care

- **Heat:** cold blooded - can not survive long without heat (80-95 degrees)
- **Water:** needs clean water for bathing and for drinking
- **Contained:** can not survive out of its enclosure
- **Clean:** it does not have the ability to get away from its own excrement
- **Hides:** positive thigmotaxis; sensitive and needs to feel safe
- **Substrate:** must be present and clean
- **Food:** mice, rats, rabbits, chickens, guinea pigs – pre-killed or frozen/thawed

Husbandry

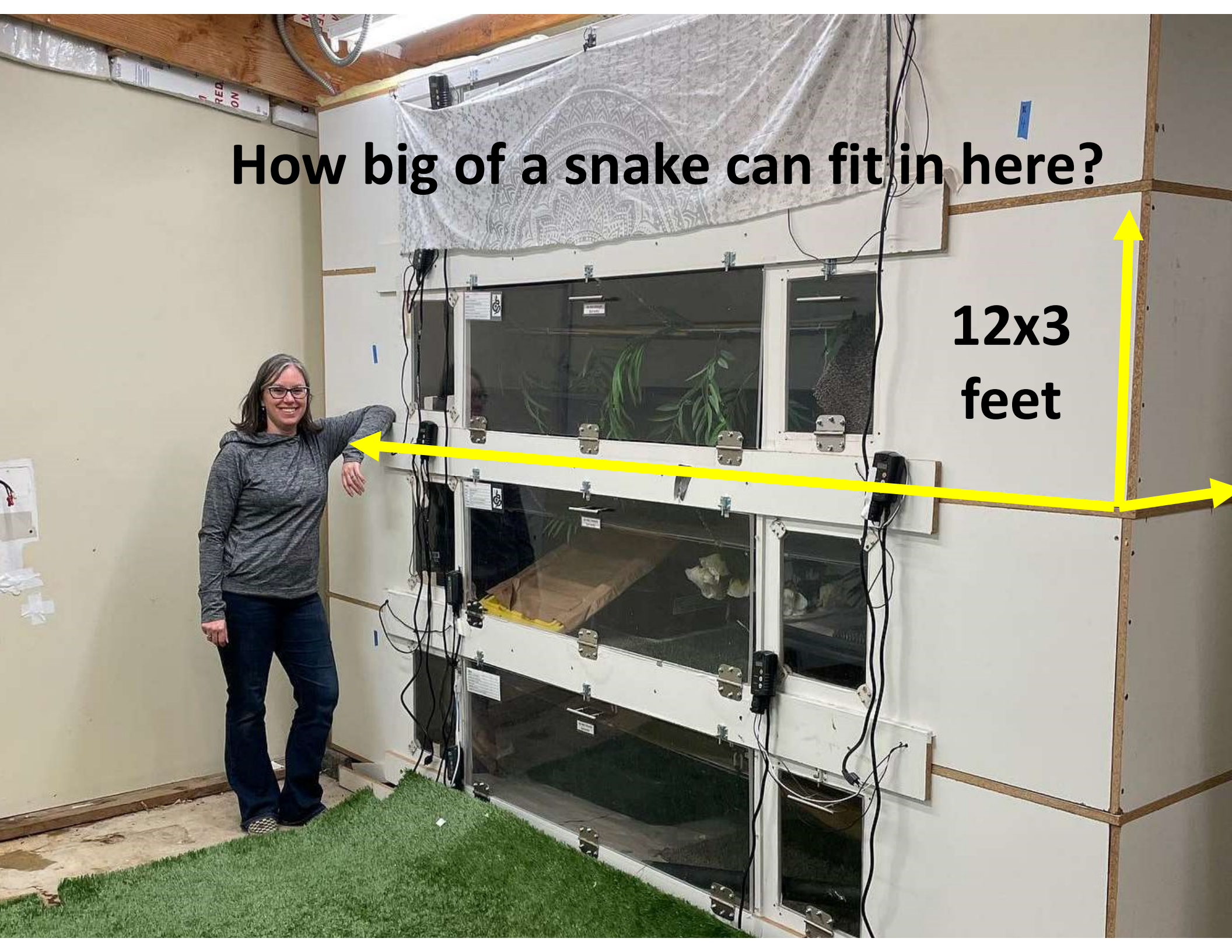
Husbandry

- Enclosure size
- Heat
- Water
- Food
- Hides
- Locked
- Safety inside the enclosure
- Additional goals:
 - Enrichment
 - Exercise out of enclosure
 - Two water sources
 - Easy to clean



How big of a snake can fit in here?

**12x3
feet**



Common enclosure types

Glass aquariums: fish tanks are for fish

- Special note: screen tops can cause tremendous harm
- Follow link: www.snakehaus.com/frontpage/education/

Display cases: reasonable with modifications

Much better for snakes:

- Plastic tubs
- PVC
- Wood
- Melamine

Be creative! Most pet stores don't have suitable snake enclosures or supplies.



Length + Width \geq Length of Snake

Screen Top Aquariums: bad for snakes

- **Humidity control:** heat rises and take water vapor with it
- **Temperature regulation:** heat exits out the top
- **Scale rot and respiratory disease:** evaporation from dirty substrate
- **Feeling of exposure:** clear on all sides
- **Nose damage:** trying to get out the top
- **Handling from above:** predators approach from above – stress
- **Inappropriate dimensions:** too narrow front to back, too tall
- **Danger from other animals:** cats, dogs, etc

This is the most common type of enclosure used. It can be done but requires significant work to be done well.

www.snakehaus.com/frontpage/education/snakes-in-tanks-please-stop/



How to improve a Screen Top Aquarium

- **COVER THE TOP WITH FOIL:**
 - Humidity control: www.snakehaus.com/frontpage/education/humidity-control/
 - Temperature regulation: www.snakehaus.com/frontpage/education/climate-control/
 - Nose damage: trying to get out the top
- ADD thermostats and belly heat – probe placement is important though
- ADD digital thermometers
- **COVER THE SIDES WITH PAPER:**
 - Feeling of exposure: clear on all sides
- **CLEAN IT!**
 - Scale rot and respiratory disease: evaporation from dirty substrate
- **TURN IT ON ITS SIDE:** www.snakehaus.com/frontpage/education/enclosures-2/aquariums/
 - Handling from above: predators approach from above – stress
 - Inappropriate dimensions: too narrow front to back, too tall
 - Danger from other animals: cats, dogs, etc

Enclosure options

Animal Plastics: <https://apcages.com>

Boaphile: <https://boaphileplastics.com/>

Vision cages: <https://www.visionproducts.us>

Reptilekages: <https://reptilekages.com>

Zen Habitats: <https://www.zenhabitats.com>

Reptile Basics: <https://www.reptilebasics.com/reptile-cages/>

Build your own: www.snakehaus.com/frontpage/education/enclosures-2/build-your-own-enclosure/

Minimum Enclosure Setup

Things to include:

- **Securely closed** – locking lid or door
- **Heat** – belly heat is easiest to provide safely; don't forget the thermostat
- **Substrate** – clean and absorptive (paper and/or p.pad)
- **2 Hides** – cardboard box works just fine
- **Water in the middle** – something large enough to soak in
- **Light/dark cycle** if possible; uv not required but is a good goal

Keep on hand:

Locking plastic tote - <https://a.co/d/6PsFeEX>

Heat pad - <https://a.co/d/h2p5y9n>

Thermostat - <https://a.co/d/2S7nR2m>

Things to Avoid:

- Vibrations near the enclosure
- All clear sides, especially if in a high traffic area
- Food not needed until occupant is healthy and settled in

Ideal Enclosure Setup

- Correct size
- Easy to use door
- Food door
- Things to climb on
- Two or more hides
- Large water
- Light on timer; uv?
- Different textures
- Temperature gradient
- EASY TO CLEAN



Hides

Positive thigmotaxis

Training and handling tool

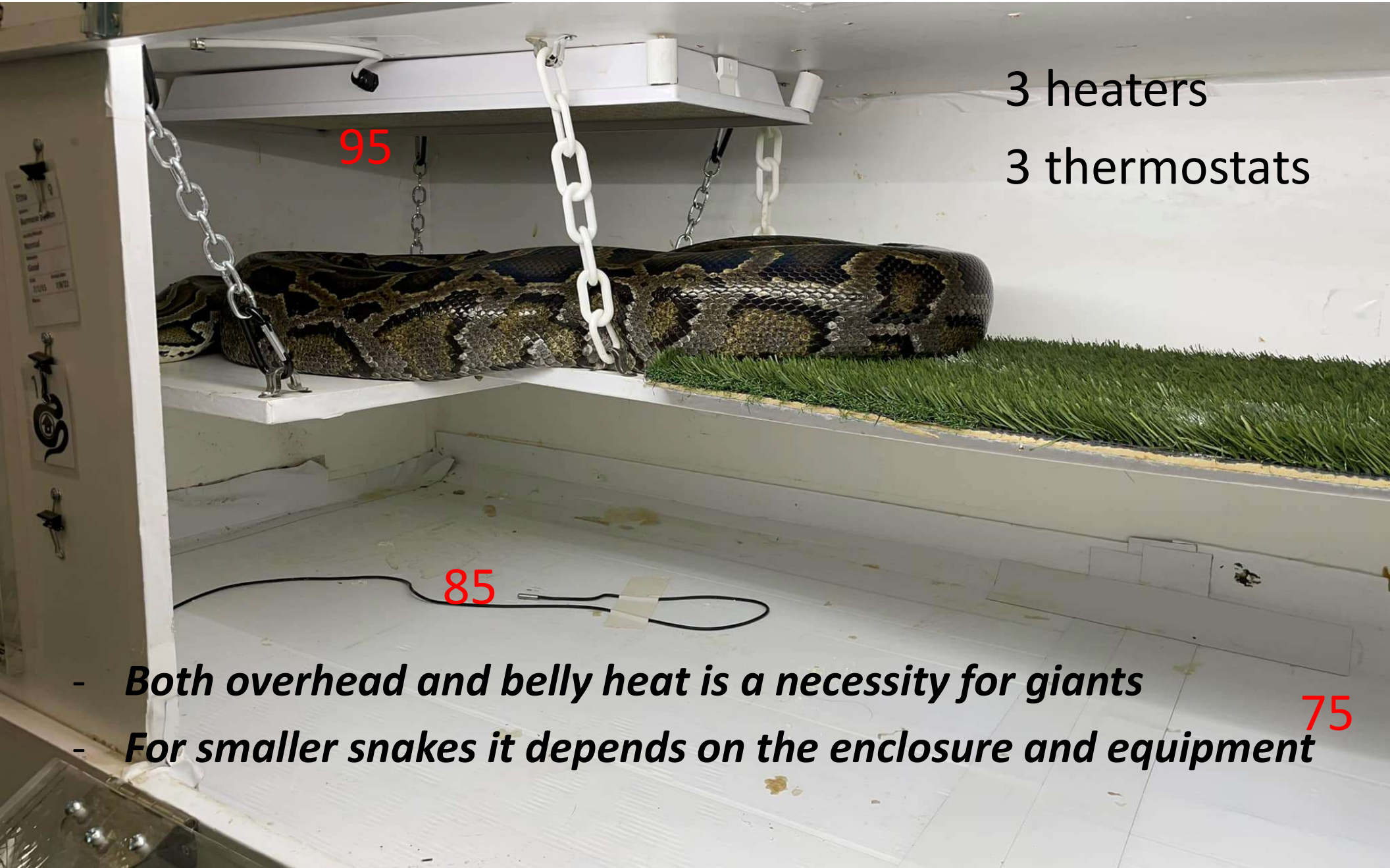


Substrate

- Good Absorption
- Non-particulate
- Easy to remove and replace



Heat Zones



3 heaters

3 thermostats

95

85

75

- Both overhead and belly heat is a necessity for giants
- For smaller snakes it depends on the enclosure and equipment

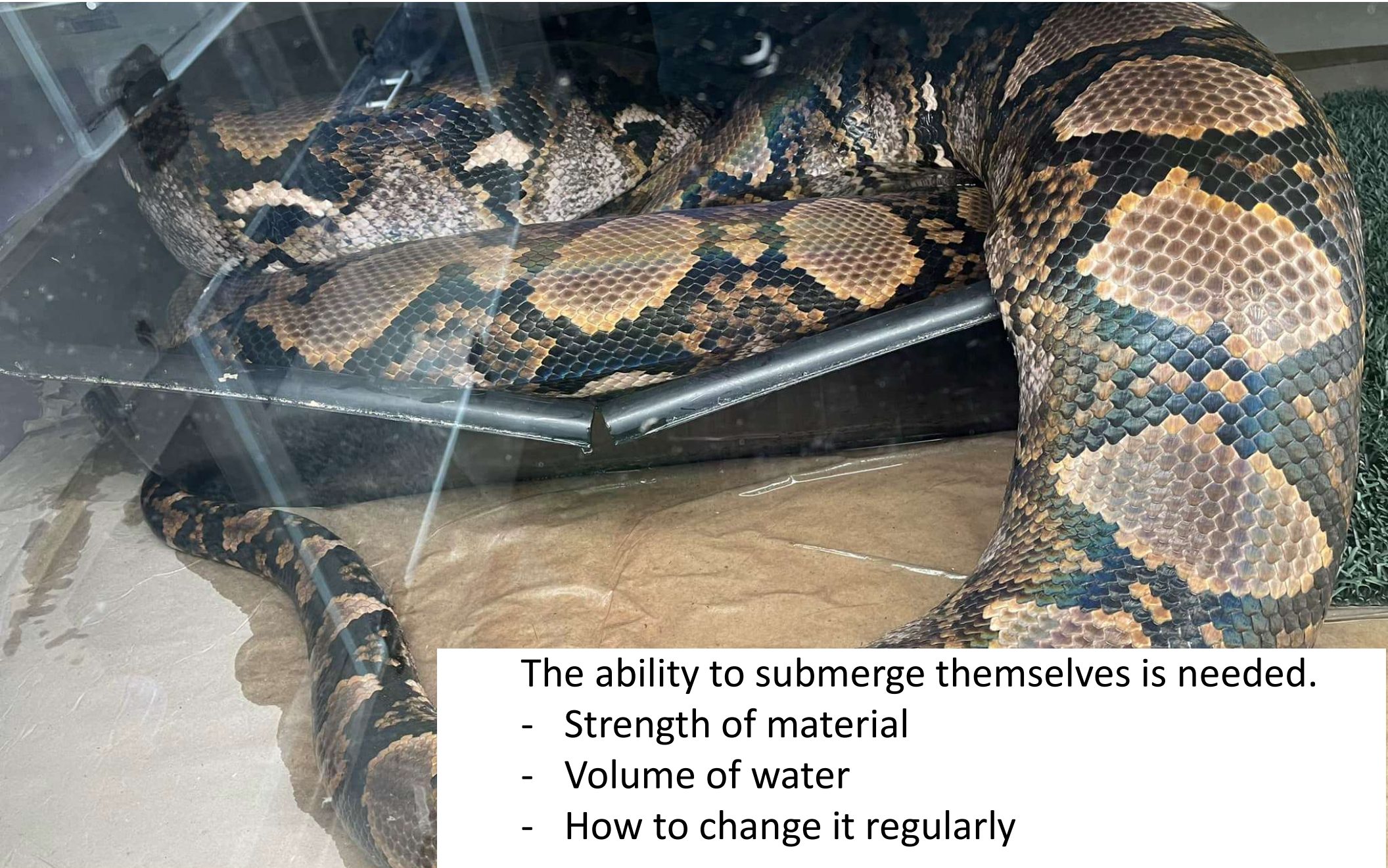
Belly heat



- Air flow and heat dissipation
- Protect heater from water
- Protect snake from burns

Thermostat probe placement significantly effects internal environment. We need to make sure our heat translates to a warm snake and not just a warm enclosure.

Water



The ability to submerge themselves is needed.

- Strength of material
- Volume of water
- How to change it regularly

Water



The ability to submerge themselves is needed for skin health.

For Giants: Exercise

Need a space where they can stretch and move

- Safe
- Escape proof
- Controlled
- Room to move



Food

- **Type:** Rats, rabbits, chicken, quail, guinea pig
- **Frequency:** Q2-8 weeks
- **How:** Frozen/thawed then warmed in hot water

Do not feed until healthy

Do not feed until warm

Do not feed live

Do not use your bare hands



When to intervene

- Neglect
 - Too cold
 - No water
 - Extremely dirty
 - Live food should NEVER be left in enclosure
- Injured
 - Wounds: bites, burns, or rubs
- Other illness
 - Skin dz
 - Mites
 - Respiratory dz
 - Mouth rot
 - Eyes
 - Spinal deformities



How to intervene

Emergency Enclosure:

Locking plastic tote - <https://a.co/d/6PsFeEX>

Heat pad – <https://a.co/d/h2p5y9n>

Thermostat - <https://a.co/d/2S7nR2m>

Papertowel, p.pads, cardboard box, dog dish



Neglect– basic husbandry

- Old poop
- Shed skin
- Dirty water or no water
- Broken items
- No heat



Heat? Water? Contained? Clean? Hides? Substrate? Food?

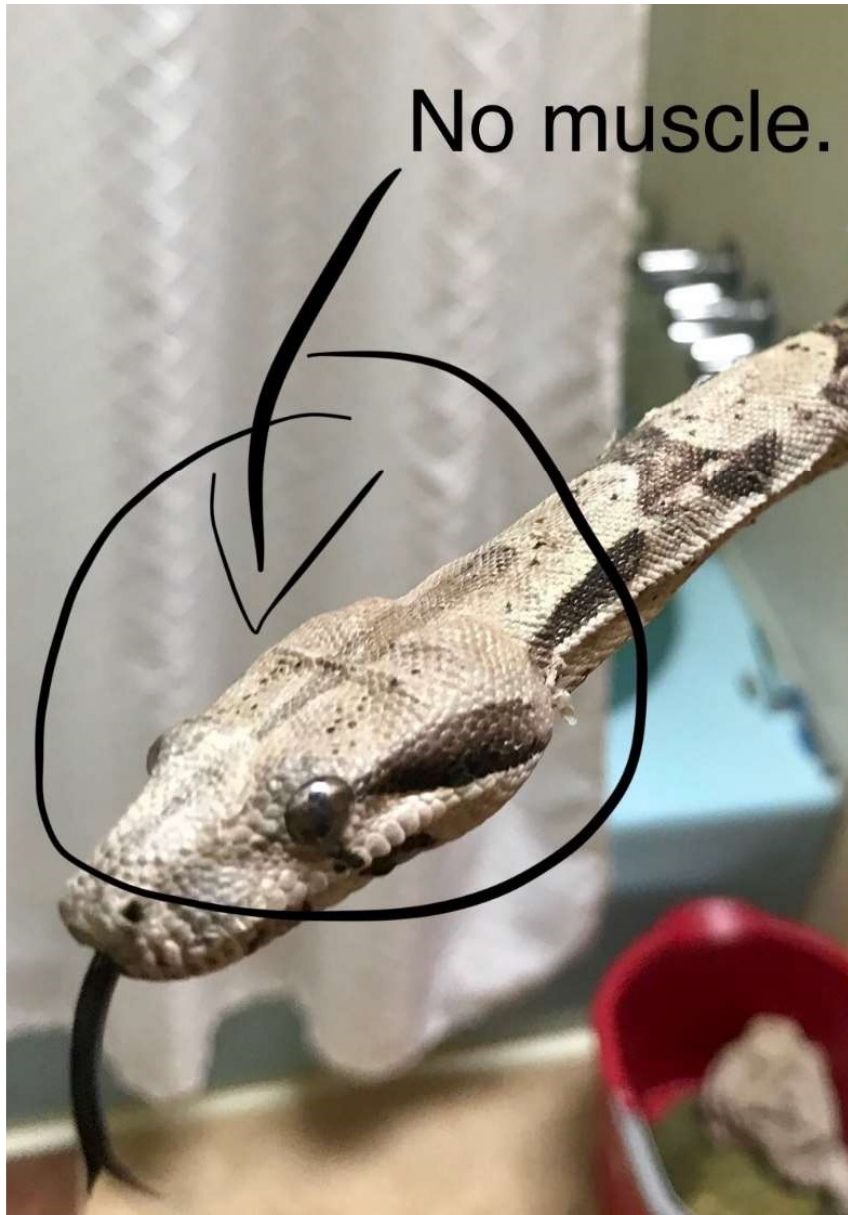
When to intervene: NO heat
→ immediate husbandry change needed



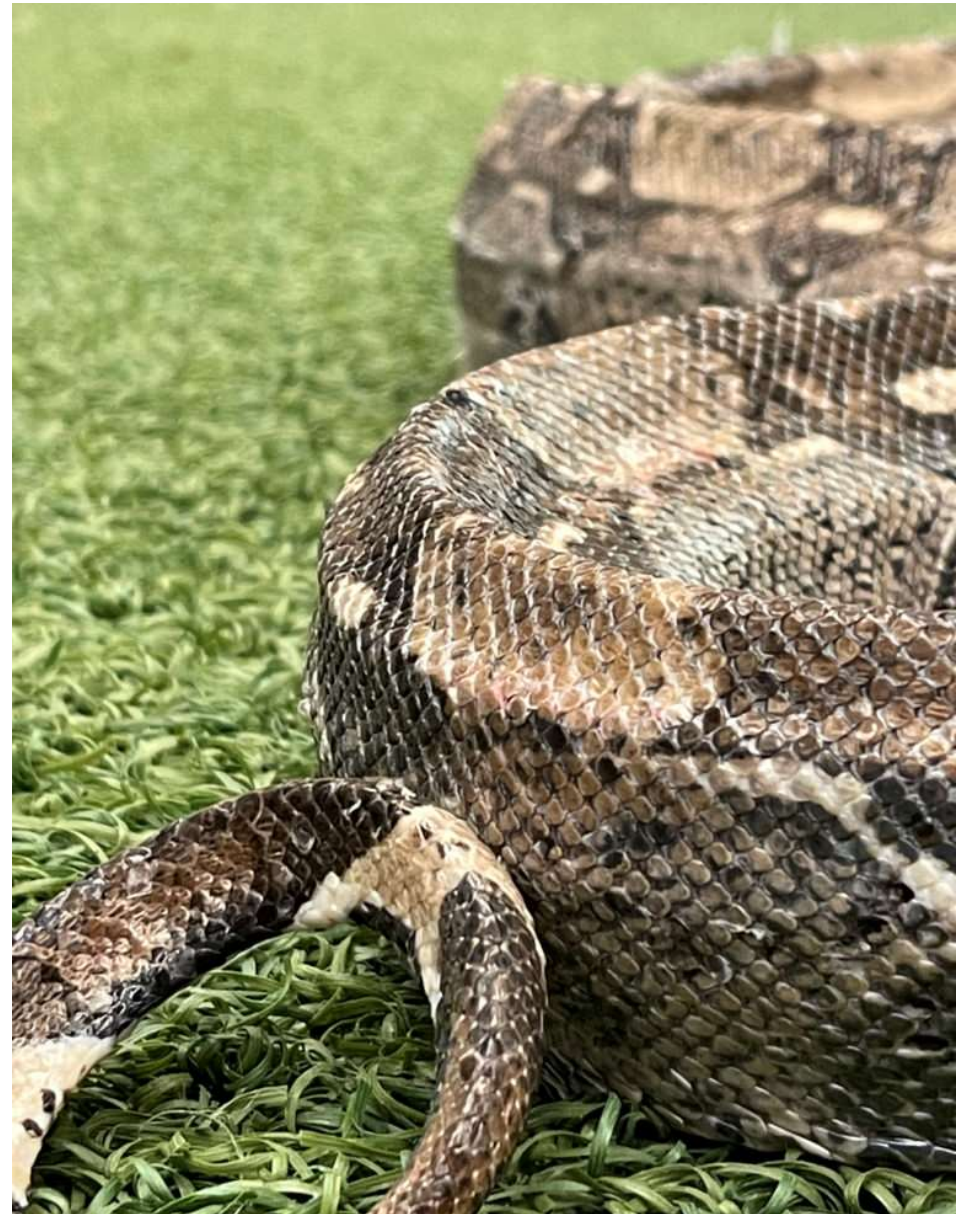
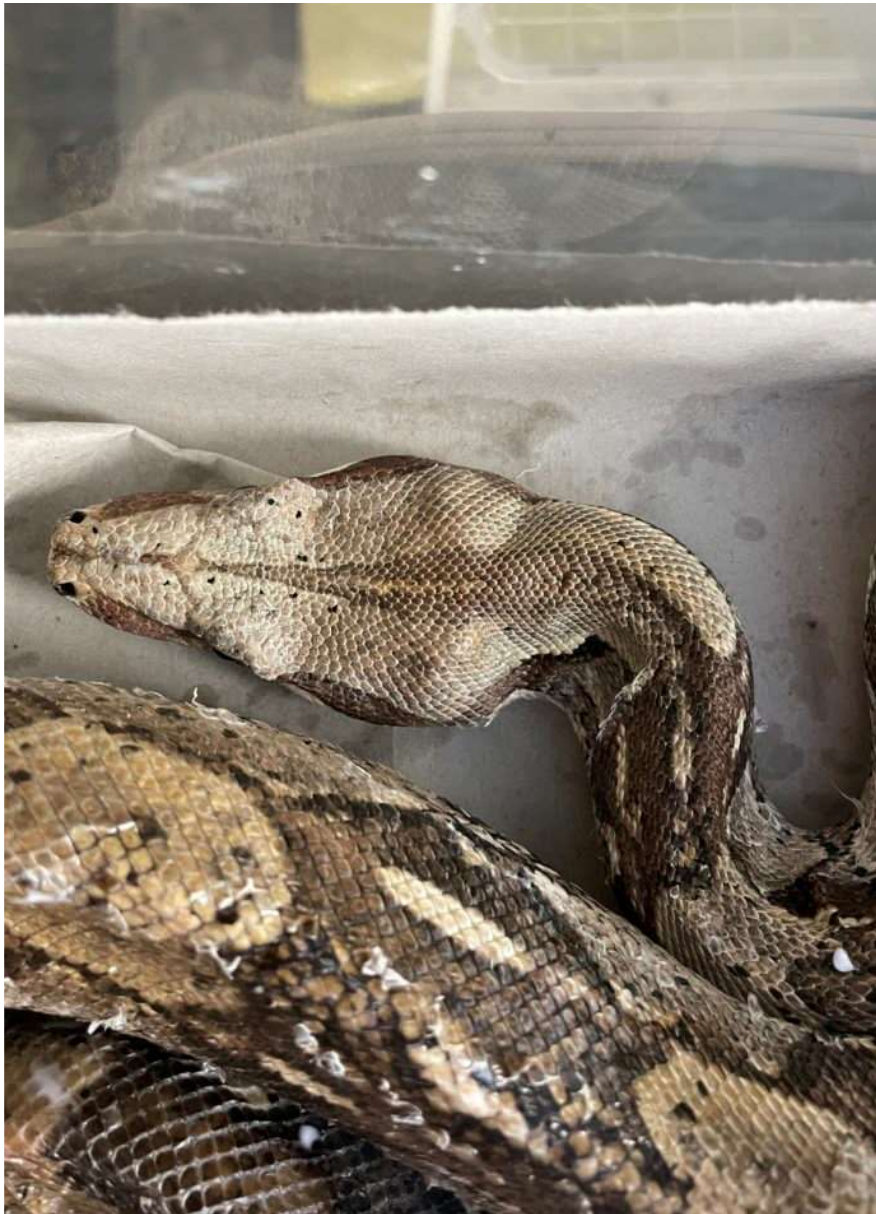
Heat: lots of options



When to intervene: poor BCS or dehydration → neglect



When to intervene: poor BCS or dehydration → neglect





Body Condition Score

Burmese Python



The difference from one level to the next is subtle but with practice you can learn to identify them.

THREE: The head will appear disproportionately large for the body, belly scales are very wide with minimal width to the smaller scales on the sides. Gentle pressure in the middle of the belly scales easily results in a concave shape. The tail has no bulge at the cloaca and when bent there are no skin folds.

FOUR: The head still appears large for the body but not as sharp, belly scales are still very wide with minimal width to the tissue on the sides but the center does not depress as much, tail still has no bulge at the cloaca. When bent you might see loose skin showing.

FIVE: Ideal proportions

A five of nine body score will have excellent shape to the head and a slender but strong muscular neck. Some width is seen in the scales on either side of the belly scales and the width of these central belly scales appear proportionate to the whole body width. A slight bulge can be seen at the cloaca depending on position and recent GI patterns. When bent you may see some gentle skin folds that are not bulky or thick.

SIX: The head shape is still clear but with some loss to the neck shape and a less distinct division between the back of the skull and the neck. Belly scales are similar to a five but with just a bit more width to the sides. The tail has a bulge at the cloaca but it can be easily missed when moving. Skin folds have definite thickness to them.

SEVEN: The head shape is lost a bit and the back of the skull blends with the neck. Belly scales appear quite small with significant width to the side scales. The tail has a distinct bulge at the cloaca but can still be easily missed when moving. Skin folds are too thick to fold over each other and limit movement somewhat.

3



4



5



5



6



7



When to intervene: injuries → husbandry changes + vet visit



Burn



Scale Rot, Poor skin health, behavior



Rub spot – stuck shed or behavioral



Laceration – partial or full thickness

SCARS: healed

no treatment needed



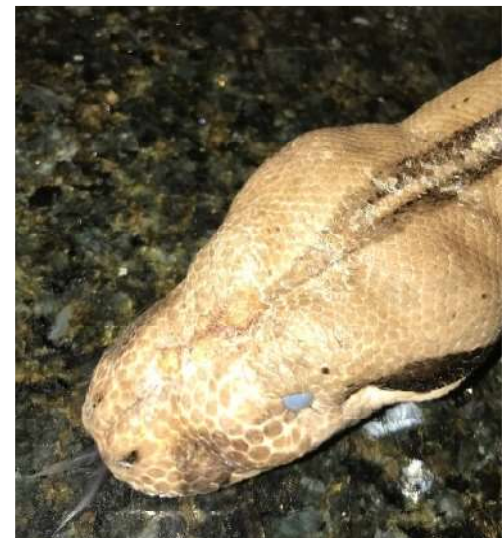
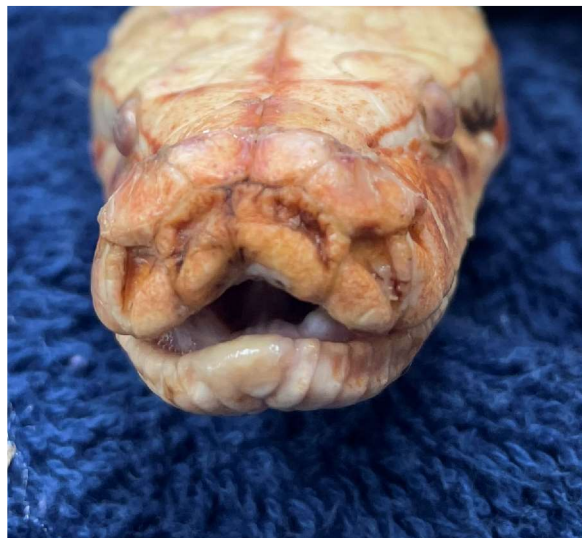
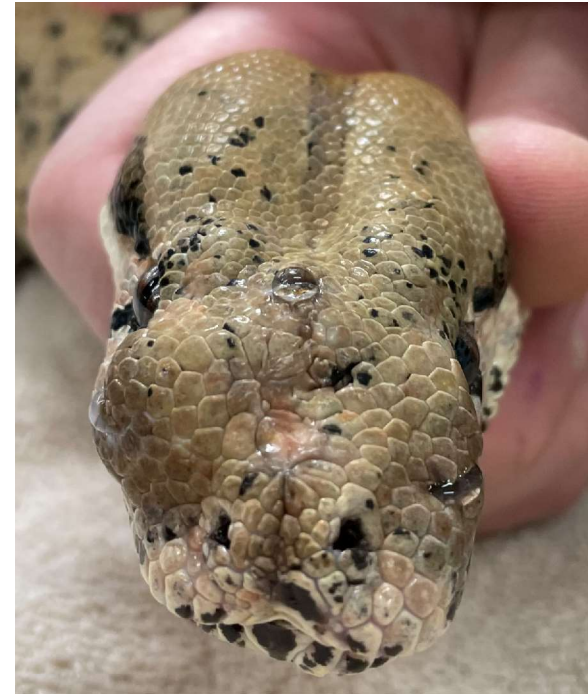
When to intervene: eye infections

→ can you tell which one needs a vet visit?



When to intervene: mouth injury or infection

**Immediate husbandry changes
AND
vet visit**



When to intervene: stomatitis

Needs a vet visit: don't forget to look inside the mouth



When to intervene: retained shed → husbandy



When to intervene: retained shed → husbandy



When to intervene: retained shed → husbandy

Needs a bath!



When to intervene: this is NOT retained shed



Inclusion Body Disease - **euthanasia**

When to intervene: behavior



Neurological deficits: vet visit needed



Coughing: vet visit needed



Self harm: husbandry



Abnormal perching: husbandry



Pushing: husbandry

When to intervene: lumps and bumps → chronic illness



When to intervene: lumps and bumps → chronic illness



When to intervene: LIVE FOOD

→ immediate husbandry change; PLEASE PREVENT THIS!



VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED

When to intervene: QUIZ

What do you see wrong here?

- Skin dz
- Retained shed
- Mites
- Respiratory dz
- Mouth rot
- Eyes
- Abscess



Signs of good health:

- Good BCS
- Normal behavior
- Shiny bright skin
- Clear open nostrils
- Bright clean eyes
- No wrinkles
- No lumps, bumps,
or asymmetry



Case Videos:

- Sinus abscess: <https://youtu.be/-GZqGgBXre0>
- Retained shed: https://youtu.be/ervY_1F8lLA
- Stomatitis: <https://youtu.be/VZd4j3y6Rvg>
- Laceration Repair:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYpPY_wExw4&t=1247s
- Grimm:
<https://www.snakehaus.com/frontpage/education/case-reviews-2/grimms-dermal-necrosis/>
- Subspectacle abscess: <https://youtu.be/C-OfNNwoQvw>

BREAK TIME

→ Up next

Behavior and Handling techniques

Behavior: predictable patterns

Diurnal



- Colubrids
- Burmese Python

Nocturnal



- Colubrids
- Carpet Python
- Ball Python
- Blood Python
- Reticulated Python
- Boas

Solitary: almost all

Arboreal



- Colubrids
- Reticulated Python
- Carpet Python
- Boas

Ground dweller



- Colubrids
- Burmese Python
- Ball Python
- Blood Python

Behavior: predictable patterns

Colubrids, Carpets, Retics: hyper and reactive

- Energetic and more likely to move around during handling or inside enclosure
- Excellent climbers
- Very intelligent; quick to interact
- Rapidly explore changes in their environment or may bolt away if scared



Boas, Burms, Balls, Bloods: slow and curious

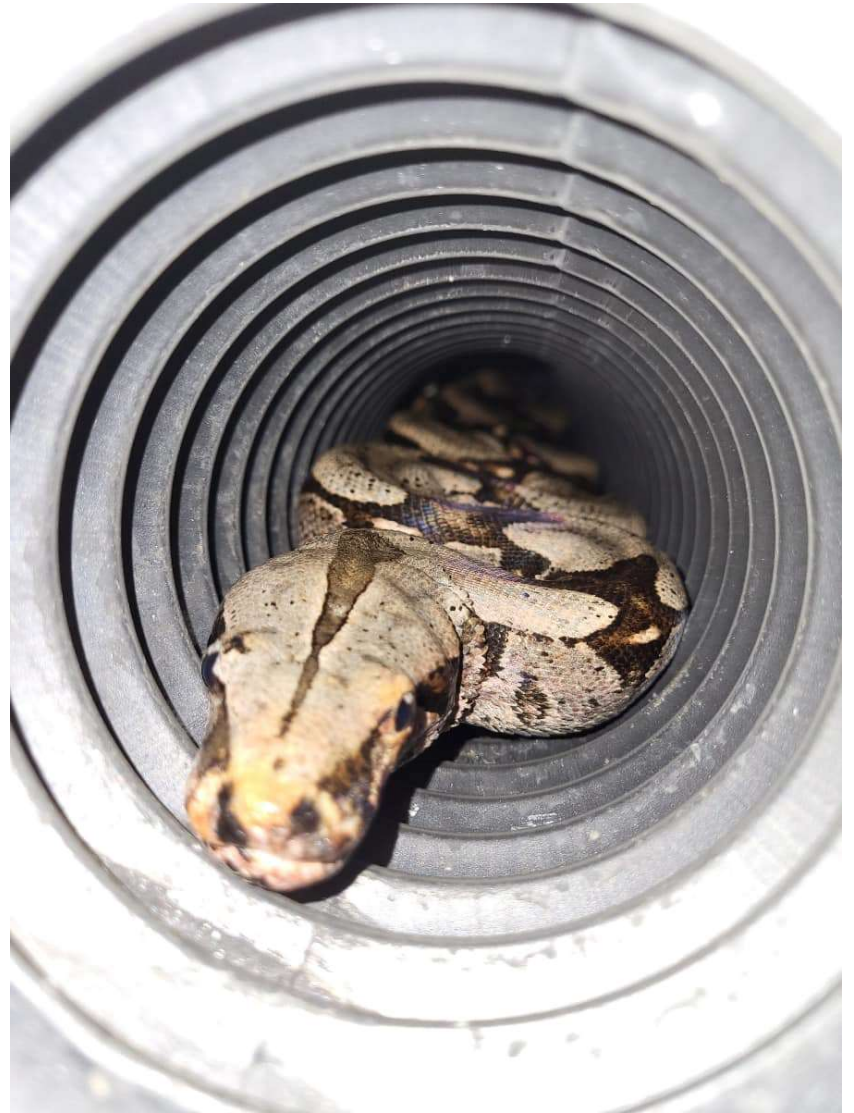
- Calm and slow moving
- Excellent swimmers
- Curious but will save their energy
- May watch from afar or move slowly toward something that interest them
(can move lightning fast when food motivated)



Snake Behavior

Habituated vs Domesticated

- Have learned to tolerate us
- Not social animals
- Will avoid you unless they sense food
- Give them an escape route instead of cornering them



Fight or Flight: give them the option to flee and they will take it

Body Language: indicates intent

- **Eye contact:** assume the worst and act accordingly
 - direct eye contact means “I’m hungry”
- **Body Posture:** very important!!
 - S shape to body
 - Front 1/3 elevated off the ground
- **Moving towards or away**
- **Tongue flick:** tasting the air
 - Tells you they’re awake and interested



Snake Bites: no big deal. . .



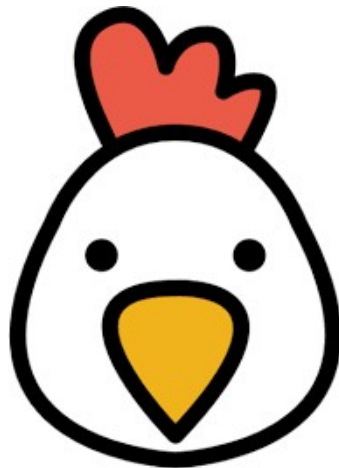
Snake Bites: how to avoid

Proper Preparation pppp 😊

- **Use a hook:** communicate and judge their mind set
- **Wash your hands:** don't smell like food

Adjust for their behavioral needs:

- Offer hides
- Go slow
- Give the snake an escape route
- Hands off capture is possible



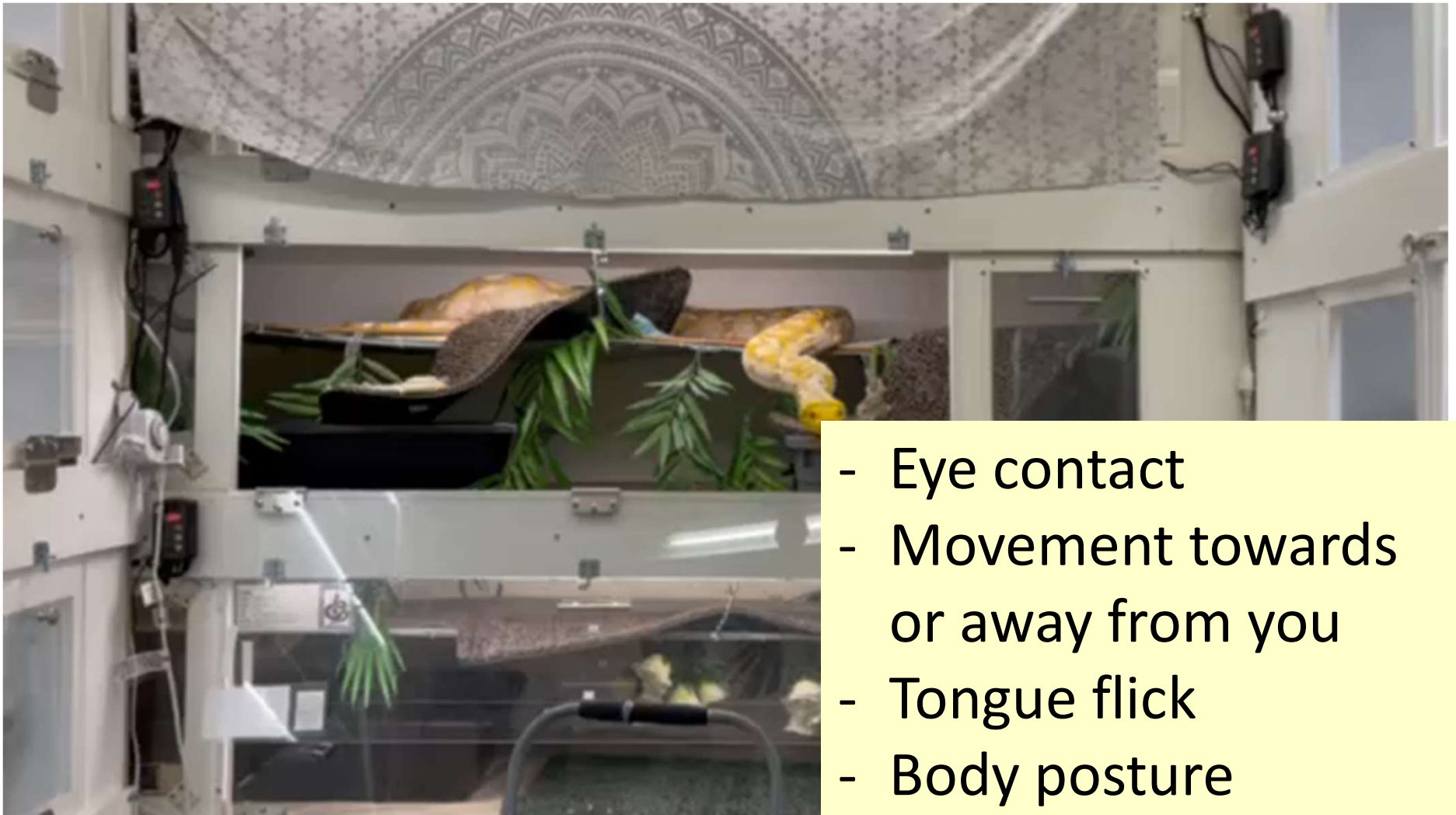
Snake Bites: what to do

Types of Bites:

- **Defense:** false strike or strike and let go
 - Back off and give animal somewhere to hide
- **Food:** strike, hold on, and wrap
 - Hold still; do not pull your hand back
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Hold head behind the neck once they let go
 - Cover the snake with a towel
 - Unwrap backwards from the tail up
- **Fight Mode:** some males will fight via a bite delivery that can cause lacerations
 - Requires gentle handling! Don't push back just try to steer them.
 - Respond better to female handlers



Body Language: indicates intent



Body Language: indicates intent



- Eye contact
- Movement towards or away from you
- Tongue flick
- Body posture

Handling Tools

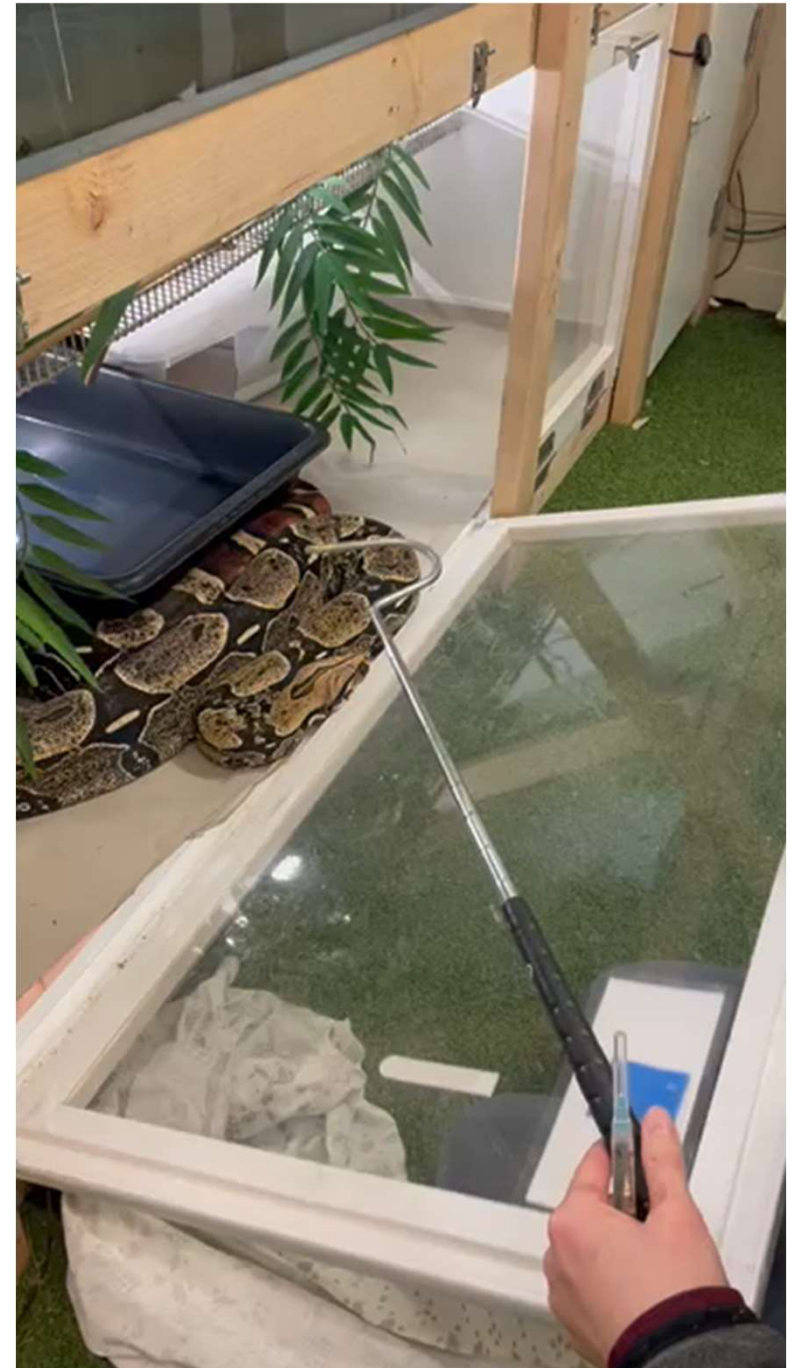
- Hook
- Hide
- Towels
- Thin gloves
- Plastic tub
- Clean hands
- Time and patience
- Close observation and flexibility

*Training should not start until the animal feels safe inside their enclosure

Hook

A communication tool:

- Break the food drive: smell and heat signature
- Applied behavioral pressures: elicit a desired response and reward
- Redirection: steering rather than forced movement



Hides

Positive thigmotaxis

- security blanket for the animal
- Reward for redirection w/ hook
- Elicits cooperation from the animal
- Vital for moving giants around
- Feeding bin – CAUTION – not the same thing!



Gloves



Towel



Training

Applied Behavioral Pressure: choice-based handling

- 1) Putting a gentle pressure on the animal that elicits a response
- 2) Adjust that pressure until you see the desired response or behavior
- 3) Once they comply the pressure stops
 - cessation of the pressure is the reward
- 4) Slowly change the pressures to teach new behaviors

VIDEO

Hook training with Cello: <https://youtu.be/B4emglk5crl>

Applied Behavioral Pressure: choice-based handling

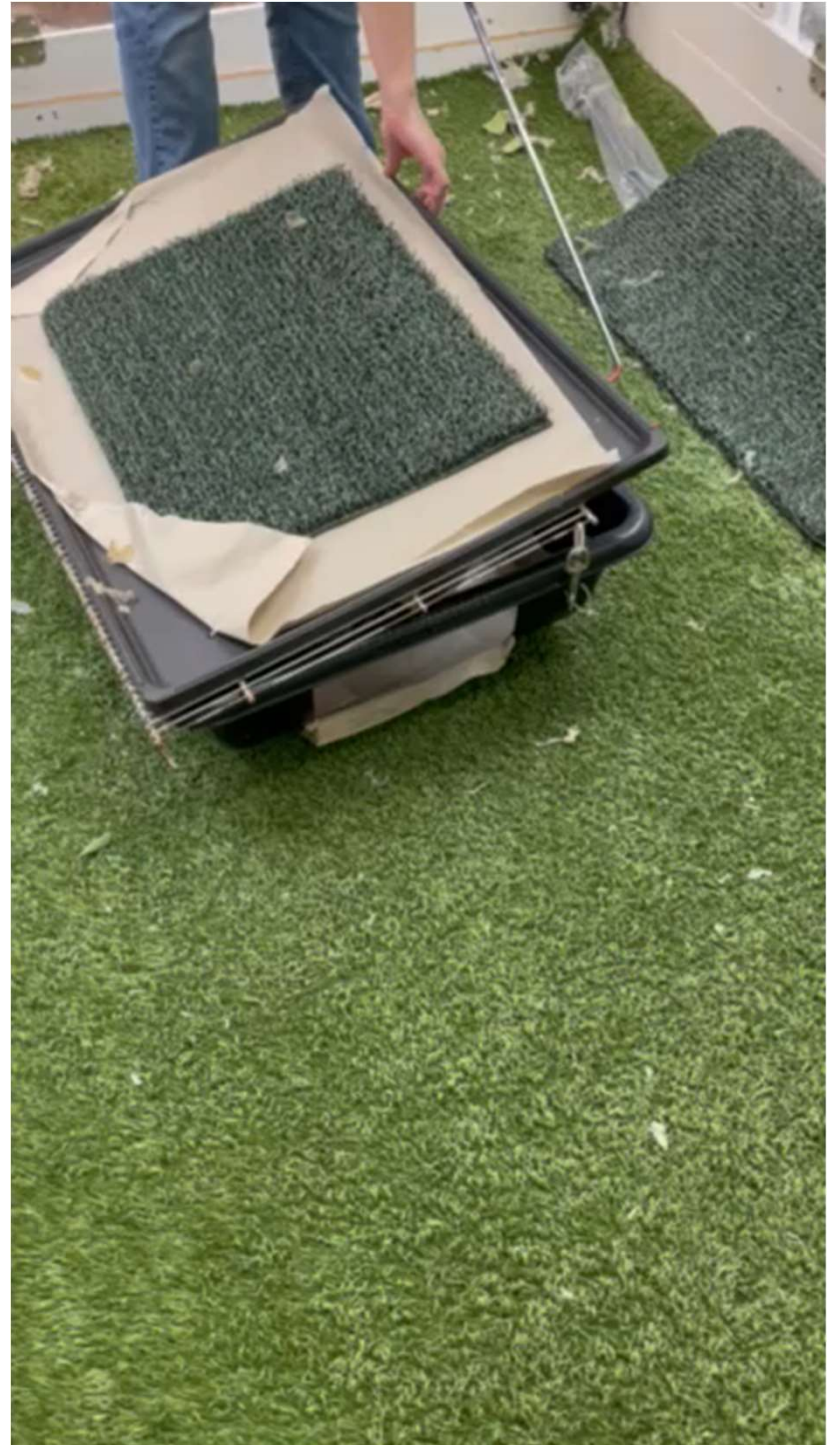


VIDEO

Hook training with Cello: <https://youtu.be/B4emgIk5crl>

Transportation tub

- Go slow, be polite, say hello
- Give them a chance to look around
- Ask them to cooperate



Safe Handling for Giants

Size Matters: One person for every 6' of snake

Respect the animal:

- Say hello first and make sure they are awake
- Give them time to look at where they are and think
- Invite them out: must give them somewhere to go
- Avoid the head and tail
- Be strong but gentle

No snake scarves: one shoulder only

Thank You

Website:

www.snakehaus.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/snakehaus>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@snakehaus>

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