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SNAKES

Green Anaconda

Eunectes murinus

Eunectes murinus is the world's heaviest snake: an olive-green, extremely powerful constrictor from the rivers and flooded plains of South America that spends most of its life in water. Females are typically 4-5 m and weigh 30-80 kg, while males are far smaller. The species requires a purpose-built room with a large, deep pool, a keeper with great experience and at least two people for all handling.

Family: Boidae Former name: *Boa murina; Eunectes gigas; Eunectes barbouri*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**300-500 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**20-30 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Savanna, rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**500 × 250 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-30 °C**
Basking spot	**31-34 °C**
Temperature, night	**24-26 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 50-70 cm
Water temperature	**26-28 °C**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**36-48 months**
Litter size	**20-40 young**
Gestation	**180-210 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Few documented set-ups exist for *Eunectes murinus*, and the figures here are based on its size and way of life: the species is a heavy, semi-aquatic snake, and care follows in broad terms that of the large pythons, for example *Malayopython reticulatus*.
TEMPERATURE	There is no species-specific temperature plan for *Eunectes murinus*. The figures correspond to the hot, humid lowland climate of the range and to what is used for other large, tropical constrictors.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 70-90 %, corresponding to the climate of the rainforest and wetlands.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The pool must take up at least half the floor area and be 50-70 cm deep, so that the snake can lie fully submerged and swim. The water should be 26-28 °C.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is most active at dusk and at night, and a need for UVB has not been documented.
FEEDING	*E. murinus* eats whole prey animals, mammals and birds.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*E. murinus* is a solitary snake that only seeks out others during the breeding season. It is therefore always kept singly. Housing together causes stress, and the female eats males.
NATIVE RANGE	Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Paraguay and Trinidad & Tobago.