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SNAKES

Rosy Boa

Lichanura trivirgata

Lichanura trivirgata is a small, placid boa from the deserts and rocky terrain of the south-western USA and north-western Mexico. It reaches 60-90 cm, has three stripes along the body, lives in a small, dry enclosure and can live for more than 20 years. That makes it one of the easiest snakes for a beginner.

Family: Boidae Former name: *Lichanura roseofusca; Lichanura myriolepis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**60-90 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**20-30 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Desert, semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**70 × 40 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**20-40%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Not required**
Winter rest	**13-16 °C** 12 weeks
Diet	**Vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**24-36 months**
Litter size	**3-6 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**150-180 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult *Lichanura trivirgata* needs an enclosure of at least 70 × 40 × 30 cm (length × width × height). The species does not use height but needs floor area for a warm end and a cool end.
TEMPERATURE	*Lichanura trivirgata* needs a clear temperature gradient. During the day the air temperature is 22-26 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	*Lichanura trivirgata* comes from a dry climate, and the enclosure should be dry, with a humidity of around 20-40 %. The figure is an estimate based on the habitat. The substrate must not become wet.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Lichanura trivirgata* lives hidden and is most active at night, so UVB is not necessary. Lighting is only there so you can see the snake. Switch it on and off with a timer so that day and night are kept separate.
FEEDING	*Lichanura trivirgata* eats rodents. Adults get a large mouse or a small rat every 10-14 days from spring to autumn. Preferably give frozen and thawed prey rather than live, and offer it with long tongs.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Lichanura trivirgata* is very docile and tolerates handling well. Touch it lightly with long tongs before picking it up, so it knows it is not feeding time.
NATIVE RANGE	United States and Mexico.