

Yellow Anaconda (*Eunectes notaeus*)

General Information

In the wild, Yellow Anacondas are widely found in the Amazon & Orinoco Basins of South America. They are bulky snakes and quite a hardy animal. In the wild these snakes are active mainly at night. Their method of biting is quite unusual in that they may not lunge but rather strike out rapidly from side to side, that can possibly cause several nasty wounds if you happen to be in the way. Experience with large snakes is absolutely essential before considering keeping **any** Anaconda. Adult males of this species will grow between 6' - 8' on average, with females considerably larger at around 10 - 12'. With a lifespan up to 30 years, these snakes are also a long-term responsibility.



Brief overview of needs

Adult Anacondas require as large an enclosure as you can possibly manage or afford. If you have a choice between the width of an enclosure and its height, choose the width. The extra floor space could accommodate a large, heavy water bowl. Always make sure that there is fresh, clean water available for the animal as these snakes will soak in their water dish if it is large enough. A larger floor space will also allow for a very reasonable thermal gradient and thus produce ideal conditions if you have included the large water receptacle. An essential accessory is one or perhaps more hide boxes if you have the room. For this particular species you could actually make a humidity box. Quite simply a large plastic container filled with damp sphagnum moss would be suitable for this and the added advantage is that the container could also act as the extra hide box. The snakes' enclosure should be humid anyway, but make sure it is not allowed to get wet. Damp can cause a variety of fungal type diseases in reptiles. You should aim for an ambient (background) temperature of 75 - 85°F and this temperature should not fall below 75 °F. Please

don't guess at the temperature, invest in and use a quality thermometer, though this species appears to tolerate lower ambient temperatures than many other species. In terms of feeding, the young Yellow Anaconda is able to eat rat pups right from the outset, moving up in size as the animal grows until it is taking full grown rats.

Finally

Do not handle your snake for at least a couple of days after feeding, as this could possibly lead to regurgitation. From experience, Yellow Anacondas can be either a



challenge or a nightmare to even a relatively experienced keeper. To a novice keeper, this species could be an absolute danger. They can be extremely aggressive and difficult to handle. They will also musk and even spray urine in their attempts to break free. Again, from experience, this is without

doubt a most unpleasant event. However, this particular Anaconda is a far better proposition to keep for somebody with at least reasonable experience in the hobby, than its' cousin the Green Anaconda. The keeping of the Green Anaconda is definitely not recommended to anyone other than an expert with many years of reptile knowledge and handling skills.