

Rosy Boa

Lichanura trivirgata

Description: Rosy boas are generally a rose or salmon color on their underside and can be many different colors based on the areas where they live. They can be black, reddish brown, tan, pale rose, gray, or cream colored. They are generally a rose or salmon color on their underside. Rosy boas have three stripes (can be orange, brown, red, and black) that extend the length of their body.

Range: Southwest US and Northern Mexico

Habitat: Desert, arid scrub, brushland, rocky & mountain slopes, and sandy plains

Diet: Small mammals, birds, and lizards

Weight: 1 to 2 lbs

Length: 17-33 inches

Lifespan: 18-22 years

Status: Least concern

Predators: Coyotes, raccoons, and large birds.

Threats: There are no major threats but they do suffer from road mortalities, habitat fragmentation, and the pet trade.

Relatives: Boa constrictor, Green anaconda, Brazilian rainbow boa

Breeding: Rosy boas are polygynandrous (both males and females have multiple mates). Their breeding season is May through July with a gestation period from 100-140 days. Rosy boas are also ovoviviparous, meaning the egg hatches within the female's body and then there is a live birth to several young (~6).

Quick Facts:

- This is one of two boa species found in the US.
- Can go into brumation, similar to hibernation, for months during which they do not eat but still need to consume water.
- Males have pronounced anal spurs on either side of their vent.
- Rosy boas are one of the slowest-moving snakes in the world.

Conservation: Rosy boas are of Least Concern.

GSC Residents:

Name: Stripe

Date of Birth: ~December 1, 1996 to December 1, 1997

Sex: Male

Origin: Donated in 1999



Sources:

<https://animalia.bio/rosy-boa>

<https://crestwoodvethospital.com/rosy-boa-lichenura-trivirgata/>

https://explorer.natureserve.org/Taxon/ELEMENT_GLOBAL.2.861663/Lichenura_trivirgata