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Amazing Animals
Fact sheets

Boas and Pythons

Boas and Pythons are non-venomous snakes that constrict their prey (ie. wrap it in tight coils). Pythons kill their prey by squeezing (constricting) them in tight coils. Their diet mainly consists of birds and mammals. The Reticulated Python is one of the largest snakes in the world, and can reach lengths of over 8m. They are common throughout parts of South-east Asia.

Black-headed Python

The most obvious characteristic of the Black-headed Python is its black head and neck. This species of python is a long slender snake patterned with dark bands. Black-headed Pythons have been known to grow up to 2.5 metres in length, but the females tend to grow larger than males.

Habitat

Black-headed Pythons inhabit Northern Australia, from central Queensland to the Pilbara region of Western Australia. They can be found living in rocky outcrops, along water courses, in hollow logs and down burrows. During warmer weather, this species is nocturnal. During the cooler months the Black-headed Python is dominantly diurnal.

Diet

A Black-headed Python's diet consist of small mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs. Pythons wind their body coils around their prey, constricting and slowly suffocating their prey.
Constriction causes the chest cavity to lapse, it then deflates the lungs and compresses the heart.

Breeding

Before breeding, males occasionally engage in combat displays, and may bite one another. Like other pythons, the females have egg layers and stay coiled around their eggs for two to three months until they hatch. Once hatched, the newborn mature slowly, taking four to five years to reach sexual maturity.

Australia Zoo Black-headed Python profiles

Darth

Darth, our largest male Black-head loves nothing more then getting out to meet and greet Australia Zoo guests. His relaxed attitude makes him perfect for those people with snake phobias to have an up close and personal experience with our scaly friends. Unfortunately, Black-headed python numbers in the wild are suffering heavily from road accidents.

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