



# 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.

### Australia Zoo Burmese Python profiles



### Burmese Python

#### Habitat

The Burmese Python is found throughout South-East Asia, Burma, Sumatra, Borneo and Malaya. They usually live near water and will inhabit grasslands, marshes, swamps, rocky foothills, woodlands, river valleys and jungles with open clearings. It is also quite common for them to enter surrounding villages.

#### Diet

Burmese Pythons prey on small mammals, up to the size of a pig or small deer, however smaller snakes will eat birds, lizards, other snakes, frogs, and even fish. It depends on the python's size as to what size prey they can consume. Burmese Pythons are usually nocturnal hunters and often ambush their prey with a sit and wait technique. They require little more than their own body weight of food per year.

#### Breeding

Mating season begins during the cooler months (end of Winter). The Burmese Python lays on average between 20 and 60 eggs about 3-4 months after mating. The female will coil her body around the eggs to protect and incubate them using muscular contractions (shivering) to keep them warm. This keeps their body temperature several degrees above that of the surrounding air. The female will incubate the eggs for 60-80 days.



### Medusa

Medusa the gorgeous Burmese Python is one of our photo session snakes used here at Australia Zoo to allow people get up and close and personal with these amazing animals. Medusa is currently three metres long and weights just over 14 kilograms; however she will grow much bigger. Burmese Pythons like Medusa have been known to reach six metres long and weigh in excess of 80 kilograms. Her mum and dad are still on display up at the 'Kids Corner' near admissions, and Medusa's brothers and sisters are also used at the photo studio here at the Zoo.

Visit us: [www.australiazoo.com/our-animals/amazing-animals](http://www.australiazoo.com/our-animals/amazing-animals)