



# Amazing Animals Fact sheets

## Boas and Pythons

profiles

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.



### 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 occurs toward the end of the cooler months. 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. She uses muscular contractions, similar to shivering, to keep her body temperature several degrees above that of the surrounding air. The female will incubate the eggs for 60-80 days.

### Australia Zoo Burmese Python

#### Medusa

Medusa the gorgeous Burmese python may often be seen here at Australia Zoo allowing people get up and close and personal to learn more about these amazing animals. Burmese Pythons like Medusa have been known to reach six metres long and weigh in excess of 80 kilograms. Medusa still has some growing to do yet. Her mum and dad are still on display up near admissions, and Medusa's brothers and sisters are also used at the wildlife photo studio here at the zoo.

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