

Common Name: Brown House Snake

Scientific Name: *Boaedon capensis*



IUCN Red list Status: Not listed
AZA Conservation Program: Not listed

Class: Reptilia
Order: Squamata
Family: Colubridae
Genus: Boaedon

Habitat:

Brown house snakes are called “house snakes” because they are often found around human homes, where they feed on rodents that are attracted by human waste. They are very adaptable snakes and can be found in scrubland, woodland, savannah, and montane regions.

Physical Characteristics:

Brown house snakes are usually dark brown in color, but can range from almost black to brown to olive green. They have thick and bold stripes that stretch from the rostral scale to the back of the head. Individuals found in the wild often do not have a body pattern, where those in captivity can have varying patterns. Are very iridescent, like all house snakes. Brown house snakes are a sexually dimorphic species, females growing much larger than males. Females: up to 4 feet, Males: up to 2-2.5 feet.

Reproduction:

In the wild, brown house snakes breed once or twice a year. In captivity, this species can breed up to 6 times a year, laying 5-16 eggs once every two months or so.

Longevity:

Can live up to 20 years if cared for properly in captivity.

Diet:

Brown house snakes feed on rodents and are known for frequenting human habitations. This species is known for eating the entirety of a mouse nest in one sitting. Uses strong muscles to constrict its prey.

