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## Elephant trunk snake care

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The Elephant Trunk Snake: A Unique Pet That Requires Specialized Care This unusual species of snake, *Acrochordus javanicus*, demands specific care and attention from experienced reptile keepers. Despite its comical appearance, which resembles an elephant's trunk, this snake is not suitable for beginners. Physical Description The Elephant Trunk Snake has a distinctively "soggy" appearance due to its loose skin, similar to that of a Green anaconda. Its colors range from brown to ivory or pale yellow on the belly, with some individuals sporting spots or stripes. Aquatic Lifestyle As an aquatic species, this snake requires specialized care. It thrives in water and has rough, wart-like scales that facilitate fluid movement. Males are smaller than females at maturity, reaching lengths of up to eight feet. In captivity, they can live for 12-20 years. Habitat To keep this species happy and healthy, an aquarium is essential rather than a vivarium. A mature snake requires a tank with a minimum capacity of 40 gallons, but larger tanks are also suitable. Housing multiple snakes together is not recommended, except for breeding pairs. Due to their reputation as escape artists, ensure your tank has a secure lid that can be weighed down with rocks or paperweights. Temperature and Hiding Places Maintain a temperature range of low eighties in the water, allowing it to cool to room temperature at night. Provide ample hiding places, as this species is an ambush predator and may be shy. An elevated platform for basking, such as floating cork bark, is also crucial. Feeding Habits The Elephant Trunk Snake's diet consists of aquatic prey, differing from most terrestrial snakes that eat mice or rats. Understanding its feeding preferences is vital to providing proper care. Elephant trunk snakes at Backwater Reptiles offer feeder fish, which can be fed to pet owners who choose to keep a small population of fish within their tank. In the wild, these snakes primarily feed on frogs, but it's not necessary to include frogs in your snake's diet unless you prefer that option. Elephant Trunk Snake Temperament Elephant trunk snakes are extremely docile and non-aggressive towards people, making them perfect for experienced herp owners who understand their unique needs. Handling should be limited to removing the snake from water for tank cleaning or other necessary tasks, as these snakes are not meant to be handled like traditional pet reptiles. Due to their physical build, handling can be detrimental to the animal's health if done excessively. Elephant Trunk Snake Care Requirements As elephant trunk snakes require a unique setup and care requirements different from traditional pet reptiles, they're recommended for experienced herp owners only. Their aquatic nature and specific diet make them one-of-a-kind reptiles. Considering the snake as a pet? Be aware that it's not suitable for most people due to its large size, specific environmental needs, and high maintenance. Elephant Trunk Snake Size And Appearance These snakes, also known as *Acrochordus javanicus*, are found in Northern Sumatra and the west coast of Malaysia. They inhabit lagoons and bodies of water, feeding on fish due to their aquatic nature. The elephant trunk snake has loose skin with small, rough scales featuring triangular ridges, giving it a distinct appearance. Reaching lengths of five to eight feet, females are usually twice as long as males. Notably, these snakes resemble boas but have the same width body and head, making them easy to identify. Elephant Trunk Snakes: Unique Characteristics and Care Requirements These snakes have a peculiar appearance due to their loose skin, which resembles warts. This unique feature helps them strengthen their grip when catching prey. To care for an elephant trunk snake, it's essential to replicate its natural environment. These aquatic snakes spend most of their time in the water and can remain underwater for up to 40 minutes before surfacing. won't be able to hand-feed them like other snakes; instead, place food in their water and leave the room, as they're very shy. They may not eat immediately, but that's due to their hunting habits or shyness. Elephant trunk snakes have a unique way of hunting fish by wrapping their bodies around it before swallowing it alive. When it comes to health issues, one common problem is white spot fungus, which can be caused by stress from poor living conditions. To prevent and treat this condition, ensure proper husbandry and monitor pH and temperature levels in the enclosure. Elephant trunk snakes are not venomous but can cause serious injuries to their prey due to their curved teeth. Handling these snakes should be avoided unless absolutely necessary, as it causes them stress. They need water to survive, so being taken out of their environment can result in severe injuries. The banded elephant trunk snake is a morph with dark-colored bands and yellow or beige stripes. In conclusion, we discourage beginners from keeping elephant trunk snakes due to their specific requirements and potential size. If you're an experienced owner willing to provide the necessary care, owning one might be suitable. However, thorough research is crucial before bringing one home.