

# Bearded Dragon Care Sheet



**Your Pets Super Store**

1250 Upper Front Street, Binghamton NY 13901

607-723-2666

info@ccpetstore.com



Congratulations on your new pet. Bearded dragons make a wonderful pet for both beginners and advanced reptile keepers. Due to their docile nature and relative small size (usually 12-18 inches) they have become quite popular in recent years. These beautiful creatures are highly recommended for families with small children due to their seeming love for attention.

## HOUSING-----

Adult dragons should be housed in nothing smaller than a 40 gallon breeder tank. A 55 gallon aquarium, due to the extra length gives more room to run. Consider an under tank heater for night time use in the winter months. DO NOT use heat rocks as these can cause serious burns on your animals' underside. Screen lids should be used for the top of any aquarium style cages you use. Do not use glass, plexiglass or wood to cover your cages. This will not allow enough air circulation and will also trap humidity in the cage. Screen tops allow air flow, your lighting and heat sources to work correctly and humidity to escape. Substrates such as R-Zilla's terrarium liner for juveniles or calcium sand like VitaSand or Reptilite can be used for adults and are good for a desert lizard. You will want to include a basking rock as well as some rocks and logs for climbing, they will also need a hiding house, cave or branches and plants where you pet can feel safely hidden to sleep. A shallow water and food dish should be provided.

## HEATING AND LIGHT-----

To produce heat and a basking spot in your enclosure you can use either a ceramic heater or a reptile basking light. The best fixture for any of these choices is a porcelain dome light fixture by Exo Terra or R-Zilla. This type of fixture is a must with a ceramic heat emitter due to the amount of heat they produce. The temperature for this basking spot should be around 100 degrees fahrenheit and the cool side of the tank around 70 degrees. Night time temperatures can fall as low as 65 degrees. You may want a thermometer on the "hot side" and one on the "cool side" to make sure that your temps are in the range they should be in. Bearded dragons require UVB lighting for 10-12 hours a day. UVB bulbs need to be replaced every 6-9 months.

## DIET-----

Bearded dragons are omnivorous, meaning that they eat both animal and plant matter. Juvenile beardies should be offered appropriately sized crickets every day. Offer as many as your beardie will eat in 5-10 minutes. When your beardie stops eating, stop offering. Young bearded dragons can eat anywhere from 20-60 small crickets a day. They eat more live food than adults. Your beardie should be given fresh greens daily. Adults only need to eat crickets 3-5 times a week along with fresh greens. Adults can also eat meal worms, wax worms and red wiggler worms. All these should be used as treats, with crickets and greens being your dragons regular diet. DO NOT feed your beardie insects that you have caught in your backyard. These bugs could have parasites that could be passed on to your beardie or they could have been exposed to poisons that could kill your beardie. Lightning bugs can also kill your beardie so it is much safer to stay away from wild caught insects. Crickets should be dusted with a calcium/vitamin D3 supplement such as Zoomed's Repticalcium and also with a multivitamin supplement such as Herptivite, made by Rep-cal. Any uneaten food items should be removed from your dragons enclosure daily. There are a wide variety of greens available that are good for your beardie. Dandelion greens, collard greens, romaine lettuce, mustard greens, bok choy, kale, turnip greens, escarole and chicory are among the easiest to find and the best to use. iceberg lettuce is composed mostly of water and hold little or no nutritional value. Spinach should also be avoided as calcium binds to it and will not be digested by your animal. A wide variety of vegetables can also be offered. Yellow and zucchini squash, green beans, parsnips, sweet potato, snow peas and carrots. Carrots should only be given as a treat. Fruits can also be used, just avoid any citrus fruit such as oranges and grapefruit. Fresh water should be offered daily in a shallow bowl. This water bowl should be disinfected once a week to avoid any bacterial build ups. Many bearded dragons may not drink from a water bowl so you may have to drip the water slowly onto your beardies snout. Wiggling your finger in the water may also get their attention. They like things that move so creating ripples in the water may get their attention.

## CLEANING-----

Bathing your beardie once a week will help keep them hydrated and will also aid in shedding. Bath water should be warm much like bath water for a small child. Make the water only as deep as your beardies chest or half way up their front arms. Never leave unattended in the bath, accidents only take a second to happen. Washing your hands before and after handling your beardie will help keep you and your new pet healthy. Wash and dry the water bowl daily. Check for and remove any rotten food and droppings daily. Keeping your dragon clean will help to keep it healthy. If you use cage carpet, remove and wash it out weekly. If using sand, change it monthly. When cleaning the substrate, clean the walls, floors and decorations with a weak bleach solution or reptile safe cleaner like Healthy Habitat. Always rinse everything thoroughly and dry before returning your pet to its habitat.

## HEALTH-----

Consult one of our pet specialists on how to keep your new pet healthy!

## FERTILITY-----

Consult one of our pet specialists.

## CHECKLIST-----

<input type="checkbox"/> thermometer	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 Long/40 gallon breeder tank
<input type="checkbox"/> basking rock or log	<input type="checkbox"/> shallow water dish
<input type="checkbox"/> cage carpet or calcium sand	<input type="checkbox"/> vitamin / mineral supplement
<input type="checkbox"/> heat source	<input type="checkbox"/> humidity gauge
<input type="checkbox"/> UVB lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> basking light
<input type="checkbox"/> logs and branches	