

# Iguana Care Sheet

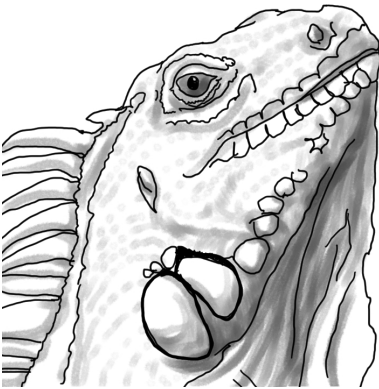


**Your Pets Super Store**

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Congratulations on your new pet. Iguana's have been known as one of the most popular reptiles to keep as pets, however they really are considered an advanced animal to keep do largely to their adult size and the requirements and space needed to keep them healthy and happy. These large herbivores can be incredibly friendly lizards with great personalities. Iguana's can reach sizes of 6 feet and live up to 20 years in captivity with proper care.

## HOUSING-----

For a baby a 20 gallon long could be used. For an iguana over 12 inches a better choice of tank might be a 55 gallon. When the iguana gets older and larger they will require very large enclosures, usually taking up most of a room, something along of the size of a 5'x5'x7' could be an acceptable size, though larger is always better. Young iguana's can tend to ingest substrate and if it is noticed that they are, the use of a reptile carpet is usually the best choice. Pine and Cedar shavings, or any evergreen product must never be used in the enclosure as these woods contain heavily scented oils and resins which can do permanent damage to the olfactory organs of the iguana. Live hibiscus plants can be used for climbing and consuming in the enclosure, but make sure that they are free from pesticides. Provide hides and lounging branches on both sides of enclosure. Humidity is very important for these tropical lizards, they originate from the jungles of South America and the relative humidity should be around 80%.

## HEATING AND LIGHT-----

Iguana's need a basking area of 90-100 degrees with the cooler side around 75-85 degrees. At night the temperature can dip down into the mid 70's or lower 80's. Basking lights should be the primary source of heating however undertank heaters can also be used on the hot side of the enclosure. Never use heating rocks, the iguana can burn itself easily on these. Providing infrared heat bulbs or similar are helpful to keep the temperatures in the tank high both during the day and night. UVB light is extremely important to help the iguana process calcium and utilize it and prevent the lizard from developing metabolic bone disease. UVA light provides heat as well as a regular photoperiod for the iguana and should be kept on the hot side of the enclosure.

## DIET-----

Iguana's are herbivores, which means they eat only fruits and vegetable matter. 40% of the iguana's diet should consist of dark leafy greens including, collard greens, endive, escarole, dandelion greens, 40% should also consist of other vegetable matter, including: yellow squash, green squash (zucchini), green beans, red peppers 20% of the diet can consist of fruit, including, strawberries, mango, apple, raspberries, watermelon. A commercially prepared iguana food can be used in addition to the fresh diet. As babies and juveniles, the fresh diet should be cut or shredded into small enough pieces so they can be easily picked up and eaten. A calcium

supplement should be sprinkled on the diet to provide enough calcium and help prevent metabolic bone disease.

## **CLEANING**-----

Sport cleaning is an important part keeping an iguana as their fecal matter can be very pungent. If using carpets they can be changed out easily, with multiple carpets. Always rinse carpets well before returning them to the enclosure. Water dishes should be removed daily and scrubbed before being refilled and returned to the tank. Food dishes should be removed and cleaned on a daily basis. All hides, decorations and the enclosure itself should be scrubbed with a weak bleach and water solution or Healthy Habitat every two weeks at the least, with substrate being spot cleaned a few times during the week and changed at least once a month. Never expose the iguana or any live plants to cleaners and make sure all items are rinsed well and allowed to dry and air out completely so that no trace of the bleach or cleaning solution is left before returning the iguana to its enclosure.

## **HEALTH**-----

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

## **FERTILITY**-----

Consult one of our pet store specialists

## **CHECKLIST**-----

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large glass aquarium 20 gallon long or larger | <input type="checkbox"/> Screen top and locks                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large water dish                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Water dechlorinator                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food dish                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepared food  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calcium and Vitamin powders                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Heat lights and fixtures                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UVA & UVB lights and fixtures                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometers   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humidity gage                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hides  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lounging logs and branches                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate (Reptibark or Eco Earth) or reptile carpet |