

Water Dragon Care Sheet



Your Pets Super Store

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Congratulations on your new pet. The Water Dragon is an inquisitive lizard and great pet for the intermediate keeper. These lizards from the tropics are aboreal and are usually found by water sources as they love to splash around. Their long tails and love of water will require a large enclosure to keep them happy as well as dense vegetation to make them feel secure.

GENERAL-----

Though some handling is generally okay with these reptiles they prefer to have limited human interaction making them a wonderful pet for observation and allowing you to create a beautiful topic enclosure.

HOUSING-----

There are a variety of enclosure styles that can be used to house a water dragon. They do get large and have a long tail and this should come into consideration before taking on the lizard as a pet. Water dragons love to climb and swim and for an adult a very large cage will be required with dimensions no smaller than 4ftx4ft and 6ft in height. A large pan of water should be provided for the lizard as they do like to soak and swim. If the water area is very large a water filter can be used to keep the water fresher and also can provide extra humidity. Aspen beddings, barks and recycled news paper beddings can pose an issue with the lizard as they have a habit of ingesting bits of their substrate so substrates such as R-Zilla's terrarium liner are suggested..

Hanging leaves and vines not only allow for a naturalistic look and can provide the lizard with a sense of security. Keeping glass covered with decor or backgrounds is a good idea as these lizards tend not understand glass and can often do damage to their snouts and lower jaws rubbing against the enclosure. Leave a good amount of open spaces in the closure and don't over crowd the enclosure so the lizard has plenty of room to roam about.

HEATING AND LIGHT-----

Water dragons should be provided with ambient day time temperatures of 84 to 88 degrees with a basking area of 95 degrees. UVA lights will provide needed daytime heat, while infrared can be used at night. UVB light is a necessity for these lizards and should be provided across as much as the enclosure as possible. These are diurnal lizards and will require a normal photo cycle. During warmer months an outside enclosure can be used to provide natural sunlight for the absorption of calcium. Never put a glass enclosure in direct sunlight as overheating can occur rapidly. The water dragon uses a parietal eye to bask, so the use of heating pads or rocks will not provide adequate heating sources. Humidity is very important to these tropical lizards and should be kept around 80%

DIET-----

Water dragons are known to be finicky eaters and should be offered a rotational diet to prevent lack of appetite. The Water Dragon should be offered food every day. They can be offered crickets, feeder fish, pinkies, meal/superworms and some fruits and vegetables. (vegetation should be only 10-15 percent of the diet). Pinkies and feeder fish should be offered once or twice a week to provide calcium. If no other source of calcium is used, provide a dusted meal of crickets or worms consisting of calcium with D3 and vitamins.

CLEANING-----

Washing your hands before and after handling your water dragon 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 bark or dirt substrate, 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-----

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 45-55 gallon aquarium with screen top & locks | <input type="checkbox"/> Coconut fiber substrate or reptile carpet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large water pan | <input type="checkbox"/> Spray bottle for misting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer | <input type="checkbox"/> Humidity gage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Undertank heater | <input type="checkbox"/> Heat light & fixture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UVB light and fixture | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin/mineral supplement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water dechlorinator | <input type="checkbox"/> Moss |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hanging leaves, vines and branches | <input type="checkbox"/> Background for covering back and sides of enclosure |