

BEARDED DRAGON

- Great for beginners!
- Native to Australia, they live in rocky and arid regions of the country and are adept climbers.
- They are omnivorous, eating both insects and plants.
- Average size of 18-24 inches and live to be about ten years old.

Diet

The main diet of a dragon consists of insects such as crickets, mealworms, and occasionally wax worms. Calcium and Vitamin D3 supplements should be used to coat the crickets and sprinkled on top of veggies. This supplement should be used every day for young dragons and every 2-3 days for older dragons.



Bearded Dragons also eat vegetables and fruits. It is best to offer a good variety of finely chopped vegetables with the main vegetables being collared, mustard, or dandelion greens, carrots, peas, and beans. Fruits such as apples, strawberries, cantaloupe, and bananas can be offered, too. It is important to choose foods higher in calcium and avoid foods high in phosphorous. Young dragons will tend to eat more insects and appreciate their veggies and fruits more as they get older

A large dish of fresh water should be available at all time. Clean the bowl and refresh the water daily.

Housing

Juveniles can begin in a twenty long aquarium with branches, driftwood and rocks to bask on, a shallow water dish, calcium sand or cage carpet and fake plants. Adults will require a forty gallon breeder aquarium or larger with the same amenities as the juveniles.

Provide a 90°F basking area and a cooler 75-80°F area with a night temperature in the 70's. A basking light or ceramic heat emitter plus an under-tank heater on the basking side works well. In addition, a full spectrum UVB light needs to be provided ten to twelve hours per day.

Handling & Care

Bearded dragons are very docile, curious lizards which tame easily. When handling your dragon, use both hands, supporting all limbs. They do have sharp claws so always supervise others who are not used to holding them.

Bearded Dragons are relatively clean reptiles; you will need to sift out any droppings and debris from the enclosure once a week, and a complete cleaning (replace old sand with fresh, wash all décor, wipe down tank) will be needed once every three to four months.

Wash your hands with anti-bacterial soap after handling any animal.

Health

Bearded dragons are prone to Metabolic Bone Disease, which is easily prevented with a vitamin supplement and UVB lighting.

Take your dragon to an exotics veterinarian if you notice: weight loss or decreased appetite; mucus in the nose or mouth; labored breathing; lethargy; skin lesions; abnormal feces; paralysis of legs.

BEARDED DRAGON CHECKLIST

- Large Tank
- Screen top
- Large Water Dish
- Hiding Place
- Décor
- Calcium/Vitamin D Supplement
- Heat Source
- UVB Lighting
- Substrate
- Thermometers (2)
- Hygrometer
- Humidity box
- Transport container
- Bearded Dragon Book