

CHINESE WATER DRAGON

- Grow up to 3 feet with their tail being 3/4 of that length.
- Live an average of 10-15 years, though some may reach 20 years.
- They are omnivorous, eating both insects and plants.
- Naturally found in both the highland and lowland forests of India, Southern China, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Burma near freshwater lakes and streams.

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 veggies. This supplement should be used every day for young dragons and every 2-3 days for older dragons.

Water 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 20 long or 40 breeder aquarium with a large pool of water, many branches to climb on, bedding and moss that hold moisture, heat lamps, UVB lighting, a hide spot, and many plants to decrease stress. Adults can be housed in a minimum of a 40 breeder aquarium, but are most comfortable in a 75 gallon aquarium with the same amenities as listed for 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

Chinese water dragons are friendly and easily handled for short periods, they do not particularly enjoy being handled for very long and will try to get away. 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.

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

Health

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

It is common for water dragons to become frustrated with small enclosures and they may run into the glass and injure themselves. It is beneficial to offer a large cage, use plant/forest print aquarium background, provide many branches to climb on, and many plants to decrease stress.



WATER DRAGON CHECKLIST

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