

## MALI UROMASTYX

- The Mali Uromastyx is a long-lived lizard that requires a bit more care than most. It lives for 30 years or more and reaches up to 16 inches in length.
- Equipped with a spiny tail used as a defensive weapon, this is a terrestrial lizard that is diurnal or active during the day, unlike many lizards.

### Diet

Feed your lizard plenty of dark leafy greens and also provide dry foods like birdseed, peas and lentils. Dandelion greens and flowers are also relished. Spray the greens with water before feeding to keep your lizard hydrated. Offer your Mali Uromastyx crickets dusted with a reptile Calcium-D3 supplement twice a week. Fruits can be offered occasionally.

### Housing

These active, heat loving lizards thrive in a hot, dry desert environment. Provide at least a 55 gallon aquarium with a locking screen lid. Place a few basking rocks and hollow hiding places in the aquarium before placing the substrate in it. Glue down the rocks to keep your Uromastyx from burrowing under them and becoming injured or trapped if they tip over. Include some logs and artificial plants to help your pet feel safe and comfortable. Use sand or paper as the substrate about 1 inch deep so your lizard can dig through it. A heat mat may be needed to attain proper temperatures.

Place a heat lamp at one end of the tank with a rock to provide a 120°F basking area. Keep the cool end at 80°F. Light the cage using full-spectrum reptile lighting for 14 hours a day. Turn the lights off for 10 hours of night. Use a lighting timer to automate this cycle. In warm weather, your lizard will enjoy and benefit from natural outdoor sunlight in a safe, supervised area for about 30 minutes per week.

### Handling & Care

It is important for the health of your lizard to keep the cage and food clean. Clean and sift waste daily. Remove all old food. Wash your hands before and after handling. Clean the tank weekly.

For desert animals, too much humidity can be harmful. A healthy Uromastyx will obtain its water requirements from their food. It is not necessary to leave water in the terrarium or to spray your Uromastyx; a small dish of water should be provided for young, breeding or compromised individuals. Provide an occasional warm bath outside its habitat, returning after it is completely dry.

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

### Health

An annual veterinary exam is advisable to help ensure the health of your pet. The vet should measure and weigh your lizard each year and check for mites and internal parasites, a hidden killer easily prevented and treated with the proper medication.

- Your Uromastyx should appear muscular and plump; if its ribs or pelvis bones are obvious, this is cause for alarm.
- Female lizards will slow down or quit eating before egg deposition.
- Retained shed skin can be a sign of illness.
- Listlessness, watery eyes, mucous or open mouth/raspy breathing are signs of respiratory problems often caused by low heat or excess humidity conditions.
- Too much protein in the diet can cause kidney problems.



### UROMASTYX CHECKLIST

- 20L-50+ gal Terrarium
- Screen lid
- Basking rocks
- Hiding places
- Substrate
- Heat lamp
- Undertank heat mat
- Thermometer
- Hygrometer
- Full-spectrum UV lighting
- Shallow feeding dish
- Crickets
- Vitamin-Mineral supplement
- Uromastyx Book



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