



Green Iguana

Iguana iguana

Common Name: Iguana

Scientific Name: *Iguana iguana*

General Info:

Adult length up to 72". If you want an active, giant (up to 72") pet lizard, the green iguana is for you! Iguanas can be long-lived pets if maintained properly.

Young iguanas should be handled every day for at least one half hour to ensure safety as adults. Adult males must be kept separately as adults to prevent injury.

When interacting with a large iguana, children must be accompanied by an adult. These moisture-loving animals do best in large terrariums and benefit from the use of air stones in their water bowls.

Due to their large size as adults, and their rapid growth, a large enclosure should be built for proper long-term care.

Temperature/Humidity:

Ideal daytime temperature for green iguanas should range between 85 and 90 degrees. Additionally, a basking lamp should be used to maintain a local temperature of 100 to 105 degrees. Nighttime temperature should remain between 65 and 75 degrees. The humidity for these lizards should be kept at or near 75 percent.

Lighting: All iguanas require ultraviolet lighting to maintain good health. Ultraviolet lighting is recommended for 12-14 hours per day. The use of a timer will help maintain an accurate lighting schedule.



Feeding/Watering:

Green iguanas are mainly vegetarian (eat mainly plant matter). Therefore their diet should include vegetables, fruit, and prepared foods (such as pelleted iguana food).

Suggested foods:

Dark, leafy greens (mustard, collard, radish, and turnip greens or tops, kale, cabbage, dandelion leaves-stems-flowers, non-treated backyard grasses and weeds, clover), legumes, mulberry and grape leaves, timothy hay, soaked alfalfa pellets, thawed frozen mixed vegetables (peas, lima beans, carrots, green beans), peas in the pod, cauliflower, soy bean sprouts, radishes, summer and winter squashes, grapes, apples, oranges, pear, peaches, plums, nectarines, dates, all types of melons, strawberries, raspberries, bananas, mangoes, and tomatoes.

Feeding every day is suggested as well as dusting food with vitamin/calcium powder every other feeding. Make sure to get calcium powder that is phosphorus free or low amounts of phosphorus as this chemical can bind up your animal. It is essential to supplement their diet with calcium as reptiles are susceptible to metabolic bone disease which can become fatal in your pet.

Always remove food four hours after it is offered to prevent spoilage. An easily accessible, deep water dish works best with iguanas. Water should be changed daily. If possible you should have an airstone and an airpump in the bowl of water. This allows the iguana a better ability to see the water as they have problems seeing still water. It also helps keep the water fresh.

Habitat/Housing:

Individual juvenile iguanas can be maintained in a 35 to 50 gallon terrarium. A screen lid is essential for proper air exchange. These lizards are best kept singularly.

Adult male iguanas can be extremely aggressive. However, for multiple young pets, increase habitat size accordingly to ensure each individual has plenty of space to move about and not interfere with tankmates.

An undertank heater should be placed on the same end of the tank as the basking lamp. A shelter for hiding is necessary, especially if multiple pets are in the same enclosure.

Misting the habitat occasionally will help maintain proper humidity levels and allow for these tropical lizards to intake water in a manner to which they are accustomed.

Substrate (Bedding):



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2" to 3" inches of Repti-Bark is recommended for iguana terrariums to maintain the proper humidity levels within the enclosure. However, Cage Carpet can also be used as long as humidity levels are maintained properly.

Other notes: As with all reptiles after handling, cleaning, changing bedding or washing feed dishes make sure you clean your hands and surrounding areas with a bleach water mixture or a antibacterial soap. Improper cleaning of sinks and bathtubs after reptiles have been in them or their housing, food dishes have been cleaned, can cause severe illness in children and adults.