

Quick Stats: Bearded Dragon Origin: Australia Size: Adult males up to 2 feet in length (including tail) Diet: Omnivorous: Chopped meat, crickets, pinky mice, earthworms, leafy greens, squash; may want separate feeding tank Water: Water dish, droplets, misting Terrarium: 10-15 gallon uarium for hatchlings; nimum of 55-60 gallon for Substrate: Indoor/outdoor carpet Substrate: Indoor/outdoor carpe-newspaper. History, growing and basking and basking and basking and basking spectrum lightning. Will U. B. spectrum lightning with U. B. spectrum lightning and basking with U. B. spectrum lightning and beautiful paper to enjoy interaction with humans enjoy interaction with humans conjoy interaction with humans darker beards, and enlarged femoral porce.

femoral pores Life Expectancy: 10 years

Bearded Dragons originate in Australia. The most common species in the pet industry is the Inland Bearded Dragon, Pogona virticeps, which was formerly called Amphibolurus virticeps. The Inland Bearded Dragon is sometimes referred to as the Central, or Yellow-headed Bearded Dragon Other members of the Pogona genia include:

- Pogona barbata Common Bearded
 P. henrylawsoni Rankin's
 P. minima Western

- P. minuma westen
 P. minor Dwarf
 P. mitchelli Northwest Bearded
 P. mitchellor Nullarbor
 P. microlepitoda

Natural environment

The Inland Bearded Dragon lives in the arid woodlands and deserts of central Australia. It spends much of its waking hours in bushes and trees, and is also found basking on rocks. When it is extremely bot, the bearded dragon will burrow underground. The bearded dragon is diurnal and an omnivore. It forages for food such as insects, small lizards and mammals, fruit, flowers, and other plant material during the day time.

Physical characteristics

The Bearded Dragon is tan to yellow in color. It is called "bearded" because of the dragon's ability to flare out the skin in the throat region when it is threatened or territorial. Its body has a flattened appearance. There are spines on the throat, sides of the head, and sides of the body. The head is wedge-shaped, and the Bearded Dragon has a tail that is almost as long as the body. It is difficult to distinguish males from females among hatchlings and juveniles. When they become adults, sexual differences become more apparent. The males generally have larger heads and larger, darker males also help to distinguish them from females.

Enclosure: Cages should be secure with tight-fitting lids. The sides should be smooth to avoid abrasions of the nose. Wire cages do not retain heat and also can result in foot and nose trauma. Having a prope the cage is large enough, and using plastic coated wire mesh can lessen the possibility of injury.

Cages should be simple in design to facilitate cleaning. Cages made of wood must be sealed with polyurethane or a similar waterproofing agent and joints caulked to allow cleaning and disinfection. Fresh polyurethane must be allowed to dry several days and the cage thoroughly aired out prior to placing a reptile in it or toxicity may result.

Aquariums can be used to house Bearded Dragons. Hatchlings may be kept in a 10-15 gallon aquarium; adults require a minimum of at least a 55-60 gallon aquarium

Substrate: The substrate is what lines the bottom of the cage. An ideal substrate is one that is inexpensive, aesthetically pleasing, easily cleaned, absorbent, and digestible if swallowed. Substrate can be flat newspaper, sheets of brown indoor/outdoor carpet. Do NOT use cedar shavings, gravel, crushed corn cob, kitty litter, wood shavings, or potting soil that contains vermiculite, pesticides, fertilizer, or wetting agents.

Landscaping and Furniture: Branches for climbing and basking under the secondary heat source should be secure. These branches should be of various sizes and not ooze pitch or have a sticky sap; oak works very well. The branches should be as wide as the width of the Be Boards covered with indoor/outdoor carpet also make good climbing posts. Flat-bottomed, smooth rocks are a good addition to the habitat, and can help wear down the toenalis, which in captivity, must be clipped often.

Reptiles like a place where they can hide. This could be an empty cardboard box, cardboard tube, or flower pot. The hiding place should provide a snug fit and should be high in the enclosure. If your Bearded Dragon does not use its hiding place, try a different one or move it to a different location.

Appropriate plants in the enclosure can provide humidity, shade, and a sense of security. They also add an aesthetic quality to the enclosure. Be sure they are nontoxic. Dracaena, Ficus benjamina, and hibiscus are good choices. Be sure the plants have not been treated with pesticides and the potting soil does not contain vermicultie, pesticides, fertilizer, or wetting agents. Washing the plant with a water spray and watering it thoroughly several times to the point where water runs out of the bottom of the pot, should help remove toxic chemicals, which may have been used. Keeping purchased plants in a different part of the house for a while before putting them at the enclosure will also be helpful.

Barded Dragons are cold-blooded animals from aird woodland and desert environments, and require supplemental heat for proper digestion. They prefer 78-88% during the day and temperatures in the 70s at night. If a reptile is cold, it cannot properly digest its food and is more likely to become ill. Lizards like a temperature gradient so if they are cold, they can move to a watern part of the cage and they cally the momenter in the cage at the level the Bearded Dragon spends most of the of its times so you can monitor the temperature.

Primary heat source: A primary heat source is necessary to keep the temperature of the entire cage within the proper range. A series of incandescent lights over the cage is one of the best heat sources. At night, these lights will need to be turned off and another heat source may be needed depending on the ambient temperature. A heating pad placed under the cage, ceramic infrared heat emitters or panels, or more expensive nocturnal specific incandescent light bulbs which produce heat, but little visible light, can be used. For larger enclosures, a space heater or separate room themensatu can be used to keep the room at the appropriate interpenture. First aliams should be placed in rooms where lights or other heaves are used.

Secondary heat source: A secondary heat source creates more heat in specific areas of the cage to provide a temperature gradient. To best supply this gradient, the secondary heat source should cover only 25-30% of the surface of the enclosure. For adults, the secondary heat source or 30-75 wat incandescent bulb in a ceramic base, securely mounted where the animal can not touch it. There are also special basking lights available. Either type of light should shine down on a particular basking area from outside the cage. The temperature under the light in the area in the Bearded Dragon would be basking should be 95-100°F. Hatchlings housed in smaller aquaintums will require lights of lower watage, or the aquaintum temperature may become too warm very quickly. **DO NOT USE BOTT ROCKS AS HEAT SOURCES**

Visible white light: In addition to heat, incandescent bulbs also provide visible white light. A combination of fluorescent and incandescent light fixtures can be used to provide visible light to all areas of the enclose

Ultraviolet light: In addition to heat and white light, Bearded Dragons must have access to natural sunlight for good health. This is because they need a certain spectrum of ultraviolet (UV) light called UVB. UVB is necessary for the Bearded Dragon to make Vitamin D. No artificial light is as good as sun in providing UVB, so when the outside temperature on a sunny day is over 70°F, place your Bearded Dragon outside in a secure screen or wire cage with a locking door. Provide some shade and a hiding place within the enclosure. UV rays do not penetrative window glass so Bearded Dragon placed in a sunny window are not receiving UV light.

The Bended Digitation does not have access to bright smallerly, special balact, lights are used to provide the UVB light. These black lights for reptiles are NOT the black light tubes used for lighting fluc called BLB lights). Fishiquarium and plant 'grow lights, either incandescent or fluorescent, do NOT produce UVB. You need a black light which entire light in the 290-320 nanometer range. Light UVB and white lights are available. SoodMed's reptile is guant lights, and producest Visit—Lie are two good producests. These UVB lights are available. Sources should be replaced every 6 months.

Remember that UV light can not penetrate glass, so when overhead UVB light sources are used, the top of the enclosure must be a wire mesh that is not too fine. It is recommended that the UVB light source should be less than 18 inches from the rest litural to the res

Although Bearded Dragons sceries most of their water requirement from the food they can, fresh drinking water should be available at all times in a shallow bowl that cannot be tipped over. Proper humidity is necessary for proper shedding. Especially during the water meants we have the humidity is (see, may be beared Dragon with water exercal times a such constance of the specially during owners) would not container easily. You will need to clean the container and replace the water requirements of the container easily. You will need to clean the container and replace the water regularly, since the dragon may urinate or defecute in the water. In fact, water usually simulates them to climinate, so immersing them in water is a part of the treatment for constraining the container easily.

The cage and food and water bowls should be cleaned routinely with a 1:10 dilution of household bleach. Rinse the items well after cleaning. Bearded Dragons can harbor the bacteria. Scale Bearded Dragon or its cage. alla. Be sure to wash your hands after handling the

If you have more than one

Reptiles are territorial and may fight when caged together. A male and female Bearded Dragons may keep smaller cage mates away from food and heat sources, and may even see them as an appetizer. If housing Bearded Dragons together, a larger cage will decrease the possibility of aggression; nevertheless, monitor the Dragons closely.

Temperament and handling

Bearded Dragons tend to be mellow and docile, even in the wild. Although hatchlings and juveniles may be skittish, the adults will often appear to enjoy human company, making Bearded Dragons one of the better reptilian pets. Bearded Dragons tend to be curious, and will enjoy exploring so if you can, provide a safe, larger enclosure.

To pick up a Bearded Dragon, place your hand under its abdomen and gently scoop it up. As the dragon lays on your palm, gently curve your fingers around its abdomen.

To better relate to your Bearded Dragon, you need to understand what various behaviors and body positions mean. During breeding season, to display dominance, or if startled or threatened, a dragon may puff out its beard. Both males and females will display this behavior To appear even more memaneing, the Bearded Dragon may also "appe," or open his mouth very wide. This can certainly make him look more aggressive, since his mouth is quite large. Another way Dragons show dominance, is to bob their heads. To show submission, a dragon will hold upon from tige and may slowly wave.

Reproduction

Bearded Dragons reach sexual maturity and start to breed between 8 and 18 months. The female will generally lay 20 eggs in a clutch. If fertile, the eggs will hatch in 55-75 days. Unmated females may also lay eggs.

Because Bearded Dragons are omniverse, they need a balanced diet of meat and vegetable matter. Hatchlings cat mostly small immesses, As they grow, they will start to eat more vegetable matter. The diet of a juvenile dragon (2-4 months of age) will consist of approximately 80% insects and 20% greens. Young dragons should be 642 2-3 times shally. If immflictent floods its fed, young benededs may ning at the tails and toes of their cage mates.

Meat: Meat can include pinky mice (for adults) and insects such as:

- Crickets; pinhead crickets for juveniles
 Mealworms
- Max worms high in fat, so feed sparingly
 King worms
 Earthworms
 Cockroaches

Preparing insects for food: Freshly molted insects are easier for the Bearded Dragon to digest. Feeder insects should be coated with calcium supplement (powdered calcium carbonate or calcium gluconate) 3-5 times per week for adults; every day for juveniles. The insects should also be "gut-loaded," which means the insects are fed nutritious and vitamin-rich foods before they are given to the Tapago, Good foods to feed the insects include ground regumes, corn meal, carrots, sweet potatoes, collard greens, mustard greens, brignanch, apples, congase, cereals, and foold outs. There are also commercial products rich in calcium and vitamins which can be fed to the insects. Insects may be purchased or with-daught (without the use of pesticided).

The insects should be fed by placing them in a small bowl. After feeding, check that none of the insects escaped and fouled the water supply in the cage. To improve hygiene, some owners prefer to have a separate cage for feeding the meat-based portion of the diet. Food particle size: For Bearded Dragons, it is very important that the size of food be proportional to the size of the animal. Malnourishment, seizures, and intestinal blockages can occur if hatchings and juveniles are fed insects that are too large for them to capture or dig

Feed beet greens and spinach only as an occasional treat, if at all. They contain oxalates which can bind calcium and could pose a problem if fed in high amounts. Do not feed iceberg lettuce.

Bearded Dragon Species Profile: Habitat, Diet, and Care - Page 1 of 4

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Glass cages, even those with a screen top, should NEVER be used when providing access to natural sunlight. Glass cages will trap heat

visible light fron fluorescent or reptile black lights or combination lights.



DID YOU KNOW? Fireflies are poisonous to

Vegetation

Plant matter in the diet should make up approximately 20% of the diet and should consist mainly of green leafy vegetables. Other vegetables can be included. Fruit should make up the smallest portion of the diet. The vegetables and fruits should be shredded or torn into small pieces and mixed together to encourage the Dragon to eat all that is offered, and not just pick out his favorite foods.

Greens	Vegetables	Fruit
escarole kale collards parsley clover dandelion greens uturnip greens mustard greens	broccoli okra peas green beans zucchini squash grated carrots sweet potato bell pepper frozen mixed vegetables	• figs • kiwi • papaya • melon • apple • grapes • dates • paricots • strawberries (seeds removed) • plums • bananas (peeled)