

Bearded Dragon Care Sheet



PROFILE

Common Name: **Inland Bearded Dragon**

Latin Name: ***Pogona vitticeps***

Native To: **Australia**

Size: **18" – 24"**

Life Span: **10 – 15 years**

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Environment:

Desert with branches and rocks (avoiding slate due to the high temperatures it can heat up to) to be used as 'basking areas'

Vivarium Size:

Due to the potential size of a fully grown Bearded Dragon, we recommend a 36x18x18 enclosure as a minimum. The maximum size however, is limitless as the more room you can provide for your dragon, the better.

Younger dragons may be kept in smaller vivariums. This will help small juveniles to find food quicker and easier. A recommended size for a 'starter' vivarium is 24x12x12.

Substrate:

We recommend a number of substrates corn cob, beech chippings, or more naturalistic substrates, beardie life, desert substrates and many others.

Food and Water:

Bearded Dragons are omnivores and have a mixed diet of live food and vegetables. Variation is the key and we recommend feeding crickets, locust, cockroaches, mealworms, morio worms and on occasion wax worms and pinkie mice. Mealworms, morio worms, wax worms and pinkies have a high fat content and should be fed sparingly as a treat.

A bowl of fresh veg should be offered daily and can include romaine lettuce, dandelion, green beans, carrot, watercress, red pepper and spring greens. Avoid feeding foods with high water content such as iceberg lettuce. Fruit can also be offered 1 – 2 times a week. Try feeding blueberries, strawberries, mango, kiwi and grapes but feed in moderation as too much can cause diarrhoea. It is highly

recommended that all fruit and vegetables are dusted with vitamin supplements such as nutrobal.

To quench your dragons thirst, it is recommended that you spray leaves/branches or the sides of the tank, aswell as the dragon's face. Your new pet will then drink from the droplets, or lick their lips dry. Adult Bearded Dragons have the ability to store water and should only need to be sprayed a couple of times a week. Juvenile dragons however, lack this ability and should be sprayed daily.

It is also recommended that you add a water bowl (large enough for the dragon to completely submerge himself in) to the vivarium. Bearded Dragons do not tend to drink from still water and will often soak themselves in order to obtain moisture. This water will need to be refreshed daily due to a tendency to defecate in the bowl.

Heat/Light Requirements:

Bearded Dragons need 24 hour heat and 10 – 12 hours of UV light. One end of the vivarium should be the designated 'hot' end, also known as the 'basking area' and the other should be the 'cool' end. A basking lamp should be fixed at the hot end enabling temperatures up to 32°C and allowing to cool to 26°C at the cool end. This gradient from hot to cold allows the cold blooded Bearded Dragon to 'thermo regulate' i.e. cool down when too hot and warm up when too cold. This gradient also aids with digestion and, in conjunction with the UV light promotes a more active lifestyle.

At night it is best to allow the temperature to drop to 25°C to simulate the natural nightly temperature drop of the wild and to allow the reptile to shut down and sleep.

Below are the ideal temperatures for your Bearded Dragon, all of which can be thermostatically controlled:

Day (cool end): 24-26°C

Basking (warm end): 30-34°C

Night: 22-24°C

Please note that this care sheet is only for your basic husbandry knowledge and that it is always recommended that you do further reading.

FURTHER READING

<http://www.beardeddragon.org/>

Any Problems?

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

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