

Northern Water Dragon care sheet



PROFILE

Common Name: Northern water dragon

Latin Name: *Lophognathus temporalis*

Native To: Northeast Australia and Indonesia

Size: M:16-18" F:12-15"

Life Span: 10+ years

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Environment:

Found through northeast Australia and Indonesia, inhabiting tropical forests around lakes, rivers and creeks. Will spend their time in the trees basking when not hunting for food.

Vivarium Size:

An adequate size for a pair of these animals would be a 2x2x3ft (LxDxH), ventilation should be high as these lizards will require an intense basking spot but should be able to cool to room temperature at the opposite end of the enclosure. Arboreal when not searching for food, water dragons should have stout climbing branches to bask and sleep on. Cover in the form of fake or live plants should be provided to make the water dragon feel secure in the environment.

Substrate:

A good quality substrate with excellent water retention would be ideal for these active diurnal lizards. Humidity should be maintained around 80% but can go as high as 100% and as low as 60% for short periods. Ideally a large water source will help maintain this level of humidity. Mosses and leaf litter work very well to retain moisture in the substrate.

Food and Water:

Northern water dragons are primarily insectivorous but will also take nestling birds, small mammals and reptiles and even fish. They have been known to eat some vegetation as well but captive specimens are less inclined toward it. Crickets, locusts and cockroaches will make up the bulk of the diet but treats such as mealworms, morio worms and waxworms will be relished. A large source of water should be available at all times, at least big enough to soak in. Ideally the water section will be large enough for the dragon to swim and submerge in. Paludarium set ups are very enriching for this species.

Heat/Light Requirements:

As with all reptiles, water dragons are exothermic getting all their metabolic heat from external sources. Water dragons are diurnal and enjoy high temperatures so will require bright basking lights and full spectrum UV lighting.

Listed below are the ideal temperatures that you will need to replicate for your water dragon:

Hot spot: 35-40°C

Cool end: 22-24 °C

Night temperatures: 22-24°C

FURTHER READING:

<http://www.reptilecentre.com/>

Any Problems?

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

Or email us at shirley_reptiles@live.co.uk

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