

Jungle Bob's Care Sheet

Uromastyx

General Information

There are many different types of Uromastyx available as pets. These lizards are found throughout Northern Africa and parts of the Middle East. The different types of uromastyx vary in size and the largest is the Egyptian uromastyx. Adult Egyptian uromastyx can reach 2-3 feet in length while the other types range between 1-2 feet. The typical uromastyx habitat is dry, hot, and rocky and you need to duplicate this in captivity. Uromastyx should be housed alone. Like many other reptiles, it is much safer that way. With proper care, uromastyx can live 10-15 years or more.

Temperature and UV Lighting

Uromastyx love heat and require a basking spot under the light to range around 110-125 degrees. Make sure that your lizard also has a cool area available on the other side that gets down into the mid-low 70s. Night time temperatures can range from 65-70 degrees. Proper temperature allows the uromastyx to properly digest food and the immune system to function normally. Uromastyx require 10-14 hours a day of UVB light. This light enables the lizard to produce vitamin D3. The vitamin D produced by UVB metabolizes the calcium in the lizard's diet. This process of inadequate UVB and calcium is called Metabolic Bone Disease. Also it is very important to change your UVB light every 6-8 months, after this time the light stops producing adequate UVB. If you're not sure if your UV light is still producing UVB, bring it in and we'll be happy to test the light for you.

Calcium

Uromastyx also require a calcium and vitamin supplement. This supplement works with the UVB light allowing the lizard to receive the proper amounts of calcium and vitamins. This should be used every day as babies and reduced to 1-2 times a week as adults. Calcium is sold in a powder form and is sprinkled on the insects and vegetables that you feed your uromastyx. You should apply a very light coating to the food items, being careful not to waste any excess powder.

Bedding

Different beddings have positives and negatives when used for reptiles. The best type of bedding for uromastyx would be some type of fine sand. We use and highly recommend “Repti-lite” calcium sand by Carb-Sea. Certain types of sand can cause impactions in the intestine and kill baby uromastyx. It’s a very low percentage chance that this happens, but we like to play it safe and calcium sand is much safer.

Food & Water

Uromastyx are usually herbivores and their diet should consist of green leafy vegetables and occasionally insects (very sparingly). Most of their water intake comes from eating crickets and vegetables, but a small water bowl should be kept in the terrarium as well. Taking your uromastyx out for a very shallow soak is also a great idea. The uromastyx should be able to stand in the water without having to swim.

Cleaning and Handling

The terrarium should be cleaned as necessary. Any fecal matter or left over food should be cleaned out several times a week. The bedding should be completely changed once a month. The inside of the terrarium can be cleaned out with an appropriate reptile cage cleaner. Fresh clean water should always be provided. Uromastyx can be handled on a daily basis and usually tame down quite well. Always wash your hands before and after handling them.

Jungle Bob’s Reptile World

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