

CARING FOR YOUR LIZARD



Essential information for your new pet

CHECKLIST

- Food Pellets for Lizards
- Crickets, snails or cockroaches
- Vivarium
- Lighting and Heating basking bulbs
- Thermometer
- Plants, rocks, branches ect. for decor
- Reptile carpet, shredded bark, or sand
- Reptile safe disinfectant for cleaning the vivarium



NEED MORE PET CARE ADVICE?

Contact your local Pets Domain store and talk to our friendly staff.

STORE DETAILS

STORE:

PHONE:

ADDRESS:

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BASIC INFO

There are many types of lizards to keep as a pet, with the most common being the Blue Tongue and the Bearded Dragon. Most lizards have a long lifespan with Blue Tongues living close to 20 years.

As lizards are a protected animal in Australia, licenses are required so seek your state's legal requirements.

HOUSING

Domestic lizards live in vivariums, and are available in various sizes. When choosing a vivarium for your lizard, choose a size that you have space for, and make sure it is escape and draft proof. The vivariums should be heat and moisture resistant too.

It's required to fit your vivariums with heating and lighting. Lizards require heat in order for them to digest their food and to stay active. Have a thermal gradient throughout the vivariums, for example, one end to be warm and the other cold. This can be achieved with either under tank heaters, ceramic heaters, or basking bulbs. A good idea is to place a thermometer at either end of the vivariums to keep an eye on the temperatures.

Your lizard will love to camouflage itself, so ornaments like plant, rocks, trees, and branches will allow your reptile to feel at home. Provide sheltered areas within the vivariums for the sense of security from your lizard.

When it comes to flooring, reptile carpets are a good clean option, while shredded bark and sand are visually pleasing.

The vivariums will require cleaning once a week, and any water or food bowls cleaned daily. Lizards are susceptible of parasites and microorganisms within their space, so cleaning is vital.

FEEDING YOUR LIZARD

Lizards are relatively cheap to feed. They need to be provided with nutritional food for your lizard to grow healthy and to help avoid any health problems. Most lizards are omnivores so need different types of food in their diet. Your lizard should be fed fruit or vegetables, and either live crickets, snails or cockroaches. For more advice feeding your lizard, ask one of our friendly Pets Domain Staff.

Fresh water should always be provided for your lizard and be changed daily.

SHEDDING

Lizards will shed their skin regularly in order to grow. Make sure old skins are removed from the vivarium, and check closely on the feet for any bits of old skin that hasn't fallen off and remove it.

HEALTH

Spotting health problems with a lizard is much more harder than a more conventional pet. You'd need to keep a very close eye on your lizard, ensure the vivariums is kept hygienically clean, and keeping to a nutritional diet. Lizards can pass diseases onto their keepers like bacterial infections, so make sure hands are always washed before and after handling, cleaning or feeding.

All lizards should be checked for parasites regularly. When introducing another lizard, make sure it has been quarantined and is similar in size. Watch out for aggression when adding in a new lizard to the vivarium.

Metabolic Bone Disease is very common and unfortunately quite serious. This can result from not enough calcium in the diet or insufficient exposure to ultraviolet light. Pliable bones, distorted tail, weakness and difficulty in lifting itself up, and tremors or seizures are all signs of Metabolic Bone Disease. If you notice any of these signs, take your lizard to the reptile vet.

HANDLING

Some lizards are more aggressive than others and will bite more frequently. Before handling a lizard, make sure you understand your lizard's behaviour and breed. Majority of pet lizards are small and won't cause any harm when biting, but wearing gloves is always a good idea, especially if the lizard tends to bite often.

Never pick up a lizard by it's tail as it causes discomfort and some breeds of lizard's tail will fall off but will eventually grow back, however not as long.

For smaller lizards (20cm or smaller), use one hand and grasp it over the body and use your index finger and thumb to restrain the neck.

Medium lizards (20-50cm), should be picked up with one hand grasping the top back section where the front legs are and the other hand grasping the back where the hips are.

For larger lizards (longer than 50cm), use one hand to grasp around the neck, and the other on the stomach, then bring the lizard close to your body with your elbow restraining the black legs and tail. Be careful with large lizards as they can cause deep bites and scratches. Two people may be required.