

# PISCES

## PET EMPORIUM

### Basilisk

*Basiliscus sp*

**Lifespan:** 10 to 20 years.

**Size:** 2 to 4 feet long.

**Sexing:** With age males develop a larger head, jowls and a crest behind the neck.



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

**Enclosure:** Basilisks require at least a 100-gallon all-glass aquarium with a screen top. Supply a water container large enough for the Basilisk to enter and immerse themselves up to half their body height. Be sure to supply a ramp or something similar for your Basilisk to get in and out of the water container. ***Pisces recommends: All-Glass Aquarium.***

**Hiding/Climbing Spots:** Provide lots of climbing branches and foliage. Basilisks also love to swim, so giving them a large pool makes them much happier.

**Humidity:** The enclosure should be well ventilated and misted well to keep the humidity high (60% to 80%) and to aid the process of shedding and prevent health problems. Use a hygrometer to maintain a constant humidity level.

**Substrate:** A mix of bark pieces and peat moss is best. Terrarium liner can be used if wanting substrate that is easier to clean. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra Plantation Soil.***

**Heat:** Maintain a temperature of as low as 24 °C at night to as high as 32 °C during the day (75 °F to 90 °F). Use a heat bulb on one portion of the tank so the animal can escape the warm area if they need to. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra bulbs and fixtures.***

**UV Lighting:** Use of a full spectrum 5.0 bulb for 12 hours per day is required. Fluorescent bulbs lose effectiveness and need to be replaced every 6-8 months.

**Feeding:** Basilisks are mainly carnivorous. Babies must be fed multiple times a day until they are about six inches long. Juveniles should eat six to eight 2-3 week old crickets and a salad everyday. Adults will eat as many crickets you give them, they can be fed 5-week-old crickets 2-3 times a week. Worms can be offered once or twice a week once they are large enough to take them. Once full size, basilisks can have a pinky mouse as a treat up to twice a month.

**Vitamins & Supplements:** Dust crickets with a multivitamin powder every 1-2 weeks. **Pisces recommends: Repashy Calcium plus ICB**

**Handling:** Established Basilisks usually allow themselves to be picked up and handled for brief periods of time. They do not enjoy extensive handling or petting and can tail whip or bite.

**Safe Handling of Reptiles\*:** As with all living creatures, reptiles can carry microorganisms (including Salmonella) which can make people ill. To reduce the chances of infection, always follow these safe handling steps:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet, its food and anything it has touched.
- Keep your pet in a habitat designed for it; do not let your pet reptile roam around the home without proper supervision.
- Keep your pet, its food dishes and cage components out of the kitchen.
- Don't nuzzle or kiss your pet.
- Infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a compromised immune system have a greater risk of infection. Extra caution should be taken when they are in contact with any animal. Children under 5 should handle reptiles only under adult/parent supervision.

**Recommended Books:** Pisces recommends: *Anoles, Basilisks, and Water Dragons* (Barron's Books).

#### Recommended Supplies:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Glass terrarium</li> <li>❑ Screen top (if not included with terrarium)</li> <li>❑ Branches for climbing</li> <li>❑ Plants (live or artificial)</li> <li>❑ Misting bottle</li> <li>❑ Water dish</li> <li>❑ Plantation Soil</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Heat Bulb &amp; Fixture</li> <li>❑ Repashy Calcium plus ICB</li> <li>❑ Florescent bulb &amp; Fixture</li> <li>❑ Crickets</li> <li>❑ Thermometer</li> <li>❑ Hygrometer</li> </ul> |
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**Your New Pet:** It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet's health and to prevent illness.

Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat.

A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.



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*\*Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*