

# PISCES

## PET EMPORIUM



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

### Collared Lizard

*Crotaphytus collaris*

**Lifespan:** 5 to 10 years.

**Size:** 8 to 14 inches.

**Sexing:** Male Collared Lizards have visible pores on the inside of the thighs and are generally much more vibrantly colored.

**Enclosure:** A single Collared Lizard should be housed in a 40-gallon breeder all-glass tank. Multiples need a larger tank. Males should not be housed together as they are territorial and will fight.

**Hiding/Climbing Spots:** Supply lots of hiding spots, climbing branches and rocks. The happier your animal is the healthier it will remain. Provide a water dish large enough for the animal to curl its entire body into for bathing and to help with shedding.

**Humidity:** Collared Lizards are desert animals and do not require a high humidity level. Light misting once per day is sufficient. Use a hygrometer to maintain a constant humidity level.

**Substrate:** Repta-liner is best for juveniles, but adults can be easily housed in sand or other desert bedding. ***Pisces recommends: Repta-liner.***

**Heat:** Maintain a temperature of as low as 21 °C at night to as high as 43 °C during the day (70 °F to 110 °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 10.0 bulb for 12 hours per day is required. Fluorescent bulbs lose effectiveness and need to be replaced every 6-8 months.

**Feeding:** A Collared Lizards diet should include crickets, worms, and fruits and vegetables (kale, green leaf or romaine lettuce, dandelion leaves, strawberries, grapes, blueberries, mango). Fruits should make only about 10 percent of their diet. Avoid any iceberg lettuce, spinach, broccoli, cauliflower or other bitter tasting vegetables as they impede the ability to take in vitamins. 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, Collared Lizards can have a pinky mouse as a treat up to twice a month.

**Vitamins & Supplements:** Dust crickets with calcium supplement every other feeding. Be sure to use a calcium supplement that is Phosphorous and Vitamin D<sub>3</sub> free. **Pisces recommends: Repashy Calcium plus ICB**

**Handling:** Some Collared Lizards can be afraid of being handled, so take caution when handling your Collared Lizard the first time. Regular handling can rid Collared Lizards of this habit easily.

**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 *Terrarium Animals from A to Z* (Barron's Books).

**Recommended Supplies:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Glass terrarium</li> <li>❑ Screen top</li> <li>❑ Branches for climbing</li> <li>❑ Misting bottle</li> <li>❑ Water dish</li> <li>❑ Repta-liner</li> <li>❑ Heat Bulb &amp; Fixture</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Fluorescent Light &amp; Fixture</li> <li>❑ Incandescent Light and Fixture</li> <li>❑ Repashy Calcium plus ICB</li> <li>❑ Crickets</li> <li>❑ Worms</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*