

PISCES

PET EMPORIUM



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

Savannah Monitor

Varanus exanthemanticus

Lifespan: Up to 12 years.

Size: 36 to 48 inches

Sexing: Males are more robust and have more pronounced hemipenal bulges.

Enclosure: Monitors do best in a longer tank that provides them with room to roam around and exercise. At the very least, the tank should measure 6 feet by 2.5 feet. For a baby or hatchling, a standard 20-gallon tank is sufficient. You may use a screen top but must cover part of it to maintain proper humidity; ventilation should be limited but strategically placed. A lock is required to prevent your Monitor from escaping. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra All-Glass Terrariums.***

Hiding/Climbing Spots: Savannahs love to roam; provide plenty of bark flats for your Monitor to climb on. Provide a water dish large enough for the animal to curl its entire body into for bathing and to help with shedding.

Humidity: Maintain a humidity level of 40% to 60% to aid the process of shedding and to prevent health problems. Use a hygrometer to maintain a constant humidity level.

Substrate: Provide a mixture of Plantation soil and reptile sand, deep enough that will hold a burrow and help to maintain a constant humidity level. ***Pisces recommends: Exo-terra Plantation Soil and ExoTerra Reptile Sand.***

Heat: Maintain an ambient surface temperature of 80°F to 90°F, with a hot spot of 120°F to 150°F. Use a heat bulb on one portion of the tank so the animal can escape the hot spot 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 Savannah's diet should include crickets, worms, and other forms of protein including hard boiled eggs once they are large enough to handle them. Babies must be fed multiple times per day until they are about six inches long without the tail. Juveniles should eat six to eight crickets each day. Adults will eat as much food as you give them, but be careful, as Savannahs are prone to obesity. Worms can be offered once or twice per week once they are large enough to take them. Once full size, Savannahs can have an appropriately sized mouse as a treat up to once per week.

Vitamins & Supplements: Every other feeding, dust crickets with a quality reptile vitamin and mineral powder. ***Pisces recommends: Repashy Calcium plus ICB.***

Handling: Hatchlings and Babies are fragile and should be handled with caution. A Savannah that is not used to being handled can be aggressive. Handling it daily will rid it of this problem. Be sure to always support the base of your Savannah monitors tail when handling it. This helps prevent the animal from panicking.

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 *Monitors and Tegus* (Barron's Books).

Recommended Supplies:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Glass terrarium ❑ Screen top (limit ventilation) ❑ Bark flats for climbing ❑ Plants (live or artificial) ❑ Misting bottle ❑ Water dish ❑ Substrate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Heat Bulb & Fixture ❑ Fluorescent Light & Fixture ❑ Repashy Calcium plus ICB ❑ Crickets ❑ Thermometer ❑ Hygrometer |
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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*