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Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

## Uromastyx

**Lifespan:** 10 to 15 years.

**Size:** 10 to 18 inches. Egyptian Uromastyx can grow to 30 inches and longer.

**Sexing:** Males have 2 bumps at the base of their tail, accompanied by large pores.

**Enclosure:** A single Uromastyx should be housed in a glass tank measuring at least 36x18x18, but larger species require a 48x18x12 enclosure. Do not house more than one male in a single enclosure as they are very territorial and will fight. ***Pisces Recommends: Exo Terra Glass Enclosures or Eco Flex PVC Reptile Lounges***

**Hiding/Climbing Spots:** A spacious hiding cave(s) is required, as Uromastyx like to burrow when sleeping. Uromastyx do not need to climb but they do enjoy getting as close to a heat source as possible. Provide them with a raised basking area, such as a corner basking platform, large rock, or a ramp. ***Pisces recommends: Exo Terra large and XL caves***

**Humidity:** Uromastyx are desert animals and do not require a high humidity level. Misting lightly once a week is sufficient. Use a hygrometer to maintain a constant humidity level. Do not mist your Uromastyx, only the tank.

**Substrate:** For baby Uromastyx, Zilla Repta-Liner is the recommended substrate. Use a sand like substrate for adults, at a depth of 6" (15cm) as they enjoy burrowing. Wild Uromastyx burrow up to 4 feet into the ground. ***Pisces recommends: Zilla Desert Blend, Exo Terra desert stone.***

**Heat:** Maintain an ambient temperature of 85°F to 88°F, with a basking area of 120°F to 140°F. Use a strong heat bulb on one portion of the tank so the animal can adjust its temperature throughout the day. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra and Arcadia bulbs and fixtures.***

**UV Lighting:** Use of a full spectrum UVB T5 bulb for 10-12 hours per day is required. UVB bulbs lose effectiveness and need to be replaced every 6 months. ***Pisces Recommends: Arcadia T5 Pro D3+ 14% UVB kit***

**Feeding:** An Uromastyx' diet should include mainly seed and vegetables (kale, green leaf or romaine lettuce, dandelion leaves and occasional strawberries, grapes, blueberries, mango). Avoid any, spinach, or other bitter tasting vegetables as they impede the ability to take in vitamins and bind calcium. Juveniles should eat salad every day. A bowl of budgie seed can be left in the cage for the Uromastyx browse from. If adequate salad is fed regularly, a water dish is not needed in the tank.

**Vitamins & Supplements:** Sprinkle budgie seed with vitamin and calcium powder supplements every 2 weeks. Use calcium powder without D3. Dust salads with superveggie supplement every feeding. ***Pisces recommends: Repashy Super Veggie and Reptivite***

**Handling:** Uromastyx will tolerate gentle handling, but this is subject to their mood, which may change daily. Regular, gentle handling will improve your Uromastyx' attitude towards handling.

**Other:** Uromastyx do not need a water dish to drink from, however you should mist the glass next to it on occasion, and bath once a month in one inch of lukewarm water to help with shedding. Provide plenty of hydrating vegetables such as romaine lettuce, lightly misted.

**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.

**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.

#### **Pisces Recommended Setup:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Glass/PVC terrarium (Eco Flex 4x2x2 Reptile lounge)</li> <li>❑ basking platform (large rock, Magnaturals magnetic ledge)</li> <li>❑ Exo Terra XL hiding cave</li> <li>❑ Misting bottle (very light misting of enclosure once a week)</li> <li>❑ NewCal Pet Dried cholla wood</li> <li>❑ Jurassic/Zoomed Cork flats</li> <li>❑ NewCal Pet cork sticks</li> <li>❑ Exo Terra artificial desert plants for decoration and enrichment</li> <li>❑ Exo Terra/Zoomed or Pet-Tekk food dishes (1 for vegetables; 1 for seed)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Zilla repti liner, Zilla desert blend, Exo Terra desert stone</li> <li>❑ 1-2 Exo Terra 150W Intense Basking spot lamps &amp; Flukers 8.5in Dimmable Deluxe Clamp Lamp</li> <li>❑ Arcadia T5 Pro D3+ 14% UVB kit</li> <li>❑ Repashy Super Veggie</li> <li>❑ Repashy Supervite</li> <li>❑ Budgie seed</li> <li>❑ Exo Terra digital thermometer</li> <li>❑ Zoomed Repti-hammock or Penn Plax reptile lounge</li> </ul> |
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*\*Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*