
 6-10 years

 14-18 in.

 Intermediate

 75-110 degrees

 Insects, Vegetables



Bearded dragons are the most popular pet reptile. They have terrific dispositions, are easy to handle, love to be held, and are very tame. With the proper care, bearded dragons will give their owners years of enjoyment.

These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet. Please do your research and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

TANK SET UP

For bearded dragons, the length of the tank is more important than the height. In order to get the correct heat and lighting, they need to bask near the lighting, while also having room to roam. A 20 gallon long is comfortable for one or two young, while a 40 gallon breeder is necessary for larger beardies.

SUBSTRATE

For very young bearded dragons, use reptile carpet. For larger beardies, you can use the carpet, calcium sand, or ground walnut shell. There is much debate on whether or not the reptile sands can cause impaction. If you do use the sand or walnut shell, keep the water and food dishes up off of the substrate.

TEMPERATURE

Bearded dragons need an ambient temperature of 85°F, with a hot side of 95-100°F. Night temps may drop to 75 degrees; any cooler use a red bulb at night. You will need a reptitherm under tank heater, placed underneath the outside of the tank.

LIGHTING

These lizards need full spectrum UVA and UVB lighting, 12 hours per day. Depending on the size of your tank, you will want a basking bulb 75W or more along with a 5.0 uvb bulb, or a full spectrum PowerSun bulb. The lighting needs to be placed on the same side of the tank as the heat pad, leaving the bearded dragon with a hot side, and a cool side, where it can thermoregulate its own body temperature.

HUMIDITY

Bearded dragons have low humidity needs. The water dish, a hide with sphagnum moss, and a daily misting of water will keep your humidity where it should be. Once or twice a week, soak the bearded dragon in lukewarm water up to the animal's chest (no higher). This helps hydrate and encourages proper shedding.

FEEDING

Bearded dragons are omnivorous, meaning they eat both plant and animal matter. When they are young, crickets are their main food source, with dark leafy greens, small amounts of chopped vegetables, and finely cut pieces of fruit. Calcium with D3 should be sprinkled on all of their food. In addition to crickets, they will eat mealworms, waxworms, and dubia as they get older. As the beardies get older, they will gravitate more toward the greens and eat less, but larger, protein sources.

ACCESSORIES

Bearded dragons love to bask in the sunlight. A basking platform directly below the lighting with a heat pad below it, is ideal. Rocks and greenery to climb on and hide behind are also beneficial. Your beardie may also like to hang out on a bearded dragon hammock! Bearded dragons are from a desert environment, and their tank should be set-up to mimic their natural habitat.

DISHES

Your bearded dragon will need a water dish large enough to submerge in, as it likes to soak. The food dish should be up off of the substrate if you are using a sand substitute.

Developed in partnership with The Ontario County Humane Society