

 20 years

 3-30 pounds

 Intermediate

 80-120° F

 Fruit & Vegetables



Iguanas are a very popular and common reptile, and can make wonderful pets, as they are personable, intelligent, and friendly. They are also known to have the ability to identify their caregivers, and bond to them for life! Iguanas do have necessary requirements that may not be suited for all who would like one in their home, as they can get quite large.

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

#### TANK SET UP

A 20 gallon high aquarium will suffice for a baby or young green iguana that is up to about 18" long. If you put a very small iguana in a large enclosure, you run the risk of the iguana being too cold, not getting enough light, and not being able to find its food source. Therefore, an adult green iguana needs a lot of space, as it can grow to be 6 feet long. They do well in a home-built cage at least 12 feet x 6 feet, with a height of 6 feet. Some iguana owners find it easier to give the iguana their own room.

#### SUBSTRATE

Very young iguanas do well with pellet bedding, such as alfalfa, or carpet. Forest Floor bedding works well with larger iguanas, but you risk the bedding being accidentally ingested by a smaller iguana. If you see any of the substrate being ingested, remove it immediately.

#### TEMPERATURE

Iguanas need an ambient temperature between 80 – 90°F, with a hotspot of at least 110-120°F. The heat source must come from above the iguana, so the parietal eye can be engaged. This “eye” is on the top of their head, and detects light and heat, helping the iguana to thermoregulate. Proper temperature is imperative for a healthy iguana. **NEVER USE HEAT ROCKS.**

#### LIGHTING

Iguanas must have full spectrum UVA and UVB lighting for 10 hours per day. Depending on the size of your enclosure, you may need more lighting. A 20 gallon high enclosure will need a 5.0 UVB bulb and 75 watt basking bulb.

#### HUMIDITY

Humidity for a green iguana should be high, approximately 70%. You can achieve this by misting their enclosure 2-3 times per day. If the humidity is still not high enough, a Reptifogger, left running for approximately 2 hours a day, will help. Iguanas also do very well with a soak twice a week.

#### FEEDING

Dark leafy greens, spring mix, dandelion greens, collard greens, yellow squash, and some fruit (once a week) are favorites of the iguana. You may also purchase commercially prepared iguana food, which should be moistened with water. The greens must be cut into bite size pieces, as iguanas do not chew their food, they swallow it whole. Calcium with D3 must be sprinkled on their food, and water/food dishes must be cleaned daily.

## ACCESSORIES

Iguanas are arboreal; they love to climb on branches, leaves, hammocks, plants, and will bask on the top of them. Hibiscus plants can be placed in the cage, but must not have been sprayed with an insecticide.

## CLEANING

The cage must be spot cleaned every day from uneaten food and excrement. Clean the entire enclosure once a month, wash thoroughly, and fill with fresh new bedding. If using a glass enclosure, you will need to wash the inside walls daily, as the iguanas “sneeze” out excessive salt, covering the glass with white spots.

*Developed in partnership with The Ontario County Humane Society*