


 5-8 years

 10-12 inches

 Intermediate

 75-85° F

 Insects



Mountain horned lizards, or otherwise called dragons, are prehistoric-looking tropical lizards that are quickly becoming a pet favorite. They are highly entertaining and calm animals, and are very easily handled. These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet. Please do your research and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

TANK SET UP

Mountain horned dragons are arboreal lizards, spending most of their time in high dense canopies or rainforests. They need a terrarium with more height than length, preferably with front opening access. An all glass terrarium with a screen top, at least 18" x 18" x 36", would be acceptable for one lizard. If keeping more than one lizard in the same habitat, increase the size of the terrarium. Front opening terrariums reduce the risk of stress to the lizard and makes feeding and cleaning much easier.

SUBSTRATE

Coconut husk bedding and cypress mulch, such as Forest Floor bedding, are good substrate choices. They both promote humidity, and inhibit the growth of mold and fungus, which tends to be a problem with high humidity tanks.

TEMPERATURE

The ambient air temperature in a mountain horned's cage, should be approximately 80°F, with a basking spot of 90°F. Night time temperatures can reach the low 70's. These lizards are less tolerant of excessive heat than other lizards, so if they are hiding from the heat, or spending most of their time on the bottom of the terrarium, the lighting is too hot.

LIGHTING

Mountain horned dragons are diurnal creatures, meaning they are awake during the day hours. They must have full spectrum lighting, UVA and UVB. A basking bulb appropriate for the size of the enclosure, along with a 5.0 uvb bulb, should be used together and placed 6-8 inches above the highest branch in the enclosure. Lights should be left on for 10 hours per day.

HUMIDITY

Mountain horned dragons need high humidity, between 60%-80%. This can be achieved by keeping the proper substrate, a large water dish, the proper heat, and misting the habitat two to three times per day. If manual misting is not practical, alternate methods such as waterfalls and Repti-foggers are options. We keep air stones attached to pumps in the water bowls of the mountain horned dragons, as the movement in the water tends to prompt the dragons to soak and drink.

FEEDING

Mountain horned lizards are quite easy to feed. They will eat most insects; primarily crickets, superworms, and dubia roaches. All insects should be gut loaded and dusted with Calcium with D3.

ACCESSORIES

These lizards need space to climb; branches, bark pieces, greenery, and ledges make great choices. An air pump with an airstone in their water dish, or a reptile waterfall also are good additions to the terrarium.