

 10-15 years

 Up to 12 inches

 Intermediate

 90-120° F

 Vegetation, Insects



The uromastyx, also known as the spiny-tailed lizard, makes a wonderful pet, as they have a personality similar to the bearded dragon. Uros are easy to handle, have docile personalities, and are very intelligent. 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 40 gallon breeder tank is suitable for an adult uro. For young uros or hatchlings, you may use a 20 long tank, but bigger is better for them in general.

BEDDING

Uros need to stay dry in an extremely arid environment. Their bedding should reflect their natural habitat, which is sand. Specific sand created and labeled for reptiles is the preferred substrate. Millet seeds and crushed walnut shells are also good alternatives.

TEMPERATURE

Uros need much more heat and lighting than other reptiles. These lizards are from the hottest and driest areas of the world. Their ambient daytime temperature should remain at 90° F, with a basking temperature around 120-125°F. In order to get that proper temperature, the correct heat pads and lighting are necessary for the size of the tank.

LIGHTING

Uros need UVB and UVA lighting, and a lot of it. For a 20 long tank, you'll need a 100W basking bulb and a 10.0 UVB bulb. A 100-150W PowerSun bulb is a good option. For a larger tank, you may need double. A red bulb at night is necessary if the tank will go below 75° F. A rock or rock cave directly under the heat light will help with the belly heat. An under tank heat pad large enough to fit the size of the tank is also a necessity.

HUMIDITY

Uros prefer very low humidity levels. They actually do not even need a water dish; they get their fluids from their foods. You may never even see the uro drinking from the water dish. If you do offer a water dish, it needs to be shallow to prevent the uro from getting too much moisture in the enclosure.

FEEDING

Uros are omnivores. A diet rich in dark leafy greens, such as collard greens, mustard greens, and dandelions are great choices for the uromastyx. Crickets, waxworms, and dubia roaches, along with lentils that are soaked in water, are their preferred protein sources.

CLEANING

The substrate must stay dry and is easy to clean by sifting the food and excrement daily. If providing water, be certain to keep the substrate dry under the dish to prevent mold.