



Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital



Iguana Husbandry & Diet Information Sheet:

Quick Facts:

Life Span: up to 20 yrs.

Average weight: 5- 8lbs

Sexual Maturity: 1.5 yrs

Size up to 6ft or more

Breeding: Sept: Females lay eggs 60days after breeding/ around this time of year. Eggs incubate @ 86-87F for 90-120 days. Remember this information to note and track egg bound females.

Males: Have large femoral pores on the inside of their thighs

Females: have no femoral or reduced femoral pores.

Common Problems: Hypocalcemia and Metabolic Bone Disease (no UVB and poor Ca diet), Kidney Disease, Oral Abscesses, Tail Tip Necrosis, Thermal Burns, Dystocia (Egg Bound Females), Trauma wounds, Aggression- Which is normal

Background Info & Behavior: These tropical lizards are accustomed to a rainforest type habit and are incredibly territorial. Aggression towards other iguanas and towards owners is common and should not be seen as abnormal. With gentle handling as a youngster, these giants can become more easy to handle as adults. Due to their aggressive nature, we do not recommend this pet for children. These lovely giants are known to bask for 12-14 hrs in 100 degree weather in the wild, so heat is very important. During territorial displays, males will flare their dewlap and show teeth. Both sexes turn red to orange hues on their sides and heads as they become sexually mature.

Beware of aggression signs (head bobbing, head lifting, and tail thrashing) especially when they turn this color.

Enclosure: Juveniles can begin in 20 gallon aquariums. They quickly outgrow these enclosures. They should have a very large enclosure as an adult (6ft by 7ft ideally or larger). At least 5-6ft of vertical climbing room ensures the exercise necessary to prevent obesity. The substrate should be newspaper or reptile carpet for the best hygiene. A large, shallow pan (litter pan size) of water should be offered. They will tend to defecate in one spot near on in this water pan, so change the water frequently. Additional arboreal basking branches and perches should be securely placed to accommodate vertical climbing and lounging, like half-logs, sturdy branches and faux plants.

Heat and Lighting: In addition to ceramic heaters and heat tape to keep the enclosure very warm, they will need a UVB lamp. The UVB light is necessary Vitamin D3 formation and calcium absorption. This is EXTREMELY important in all reptiles, especially young growing pets. The ZooMed Power Sun UV 10 is a good choice. You can also place basking lights to increase the cage temperature. They will need a tank thermometer and hygrometer (reads humidity), and ideally the tank should be kept between 80-86F during the day, basking temp of 95-110F and no lower than 76F at night. The humidity should read above 60% at all times. Misting the enclosure daily barely helps achieve this, so placing a large water basin at the bottom of the cage is recommended. Also pothos plants can help keep the humidity high if placed in the enclosure.

Remember, normal for them is a rainforest like environment. Taking your iguana in a small carrier and placing them in the bathroom during showers can help give a 20 minute burst of humidity twice a day. You can also use warm air humidifiers in the room, but not too close to the walls or the cage.

Diet: The appropriate reptile salad will ensure the proper amount of vitamins and minerals needed to prevent deficiencies. Their reptile salad should be comprised of DARK LEAFY greens (which are high in calcium and vitamins:): Dandelion greens, collard greens, mustard greens, watercress, red leaf lettuce, romaine lettuce, escarole, and endive are all healthy veggies for your iguana. Dill and parsley make great treats. These dark leafy greens are high in calcium and in vitamins A and C. Avoid a lot of kale and spinach, as it binds up their nutritional calcium. Up to 20% of their diet can include fruit. Mango, banana, papaya, melon, canteloupe, guava and other tropical fruits are ok. . Please visit the USDA Nutritional Database to learn which greens have great vitamins and minerals at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/foodcomp/search/>. These guys like petals and blossoms as well, so try hibiscus, clover, dandelion, and grape leaves (pesticide and herbicide free). Dust the veggies with RepCal powder, which is a calcium powder that contain calcium and Vitamin D3. Reptimin Vitamin supplement may also be used to mix with food to help with Vitamin A.

Any changes in appetite and defecation should be noted and you should call the veterinarian. To learn more about your reptile, visit www.kingsnake.com, www.anapsid.org, or www.reptilechannel.org.

It was a pleasure working with your pet today, please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Top 10 reasons to visit the
vet!

- ✓ Loss of weight
- ✓ Anorexia
- ✓ Rasping, wheezing & Open mouth breathing
- ✓ Swellings around the Mouth/Jaw (Oral Abscesses)
- ✓ Prolapsed organs from vent
- ✓ Broken Limbs
- ✓ Diarrhea (GI worms)
- ✓ Egg Bound Females
- ✓ Constipation
- ✓ Trauma Wounds

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Furthermore, the references to products, medications, or treatments within this pamphlet do not imply endorsement by the clinic. Pet owners should verify the appropriateness of any product or treatment with their veterinarian.

In case of any signs of illness, discomfort, or behavioural changes in your pet, it is imperative to seek immediate veterinary attention. Early diagnosis and treatment are critical to the effective management of veterinary health issues.

For further information or to schedule an appointment, please contact our clinic directly. Our team is committed to providing the highest level of care for your pet.

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