



Practice Limited to Birds, Reptiles and Exotics

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AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES
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Water Dragon

These tropical lizards are generally found in humid rain forests close to water. They are arboreal, living in the trees, and require plenty of space to move around. They can change color between green and brown depending on temperature and health. They can reach 2-3 feet including the tail and live up to 15 years with proper care.

Housing

A glass aquarium 55 gallons or larger should be used with a metal screen cover. Males should be housed separately or with up to 3 females. Substrate should be reptile carpet or coconut bark. Large, sturdy branches should be provided for climbing and basking. Live potted plants, such as pothos, dracaena, hibiscus, or philodendron, may be included. Multiple hiding areas should be provided around the cage.

Lighting, Temperature & Humidity

The ideal temperature gradient during the day is 75-85° F with a basking site of 90-100° F. Full-spectrum fluorescent lighting which provides UVA and UVB rays is essential. A broad spectrum basking/heat bulb should be used on one side of the enclosure. At night a red or black reptile bulb can be used to maintain temperature. Nighttime temperatures should range between 70-75° F. Humidity should be maintained at 60-80%. Temperature and humidity should be monitored using a digital thermometer/hygrometer.

Diet

Water dragons are omnivores and should be fed a varied diet. For insects they should be fed crickets, mealworms, wax worms, and superworms. Adults can be given pinkie mice no more than once a week. For vegetation they should be offered leafy greens and vegetables, including kale, mustard greens, collard greens, turnip greens, spinach, carrots, bell peppers, green beans, etc. Calcium powder with vitamin D should be dusted on all food. Juveniles should be fed daily and adults can be fed every other day.

We strongly recommend annual health examinations on all exotics!

