

Pet Care of a Bearded Dragon

Bearded dragons are reptiles. Their name comes from the spikey folds of skin around their neck, which inflate and turn black when they are excited or afraid.



They originally come from the dry scrublands of Australia. Their captive environment needs to be similar to their natural environment.



Did You Know?

- Bearded dragons are diurnal which means they are active during the day.
- They are known as 'beardies'.
- They originally came from the dry scrublands of Australia.

Environment

Bearded dragons must be kept in a large glass tank called a vivarium. It needs to be 120cm long and 60cm high for one dragon. Beardies can grow up to 45cm long and need room to move around and stretch out.

Bearded dragons need the vivarium to have a warm end and a cool end, so that they can control their body temperature. Putting a thermostat in the vivarium will make sure the temperature does not change.

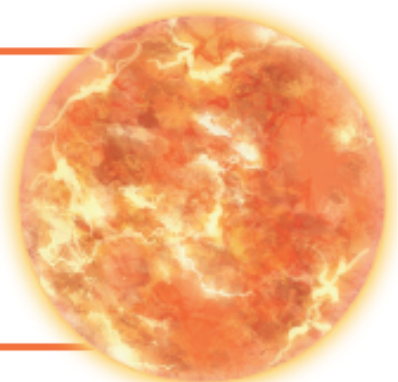
These lizards like to dig, so put a mixture of soil and sand, bought from the reptile shop, on the bottom of the vivarium.

Two's Company

Bearded dragons should not live together as they fight for living space. The males chase each other and the females bite off a rival's toes!

Light

A special light which gives off ultraviolet (UV) rays must be in the vivarium. Bearded dragons use UV light to make calcium in their skin. They would normally get this from the sun in the wild.





Diet

Bearded dragons eat live insects and some plants. They must be fed in the morning so that they can digest their food all day.

Safe Greens	Live Food
watercress rocket cress grated butternut squash dandelions clover plantain leaves	crickets locusts calciworms

Signs of a healthy lizard:

- clear, bright eyes;
- thick base to its tail;
- hips will not be sticking out.

Signs of calcium deficiency:

- muscle twitching;
- swollen legs;
- fragile bones;
- deformed limbs, spine, jaw.

Sunbathing Lizard

Take your bearded dragon out into the garden on sunny, warm days. This helps them to get natural UV light from the sun. Make sure there is some shade and remember to watch them all the time.



Questions

1. What sort of animal are bearded dragons?

2. What other name do bearded dragons have?

3. What do captive bearded dragons need to be kept in?

4. Why should there be a thermostat in the vivarium?

5. What does UV stand for?

6. Should bearded dragons live together? Explain your answer.

7. When should a bearded dragon be fed?

8. Give three signs of a healthy bearded dragon.

9. Why should you take a bearded dragon out into the garden on sunny days?
