

## Bearded Dragon

Average Size: up to 24" long

Life Span: approximately 10 years

### Diet and Feeding:

**Staple Diet**: Bearded dragons eat live insects, like "gut loaded" or recently fed crickets, mealworms or wax worms. ***Be sure to remove uneaten insects from the habitat at the end of the day; do not allow them to remain in habitat overnight.***

**Feeding amount & frequency (insects)**: Feed juveniles once a day; feed adults daily or every other day. Offer an amount that can be consumed by the end of the day.

**Vegetables**: Veggies should be 25% of a juvenile's diet; 50% for adults. Choose green leafy vegetables like kale, collard and mustard greens; zucchini and shredded carrots. Remember that fresh foods require their own dish and should be removed from the habitat after four hours to prevent spoilage.

**Calcium dust**: "Dust" the insects with a calcium supplement twice a week—ask a PetZoo associate for details.

**Water**: Bearded Dragons will drink from a shallow dish and lick moisture from their skin; mist your bearded dragon every other day.

### Housing/Habitat:

Use a well-ventilated, 40-gallon (or larger) glass terrarium.

**Hiding & basking**: Include a basking area close to the heat source. Also add a wood or rocky hiding place in the cool area of the home.

**Humidity**: Keep the humidity level in the habitat between 20-30%. A hygrometer (humidity gauge) will help you keep track.

#### **Temperatures:**

Day: Maintain a daytime temperature between 75-85° F

Basking: Use a basking spot lamp to create a basking area of 100-120° F

Night: Maintain a nighttime temperature between 65-75° F (use a ceramic heat emitter if necessary).

Place a thermometer at each end of the home to monitor temperatures

**Lighting**: Use a daytime UVA/UVB fluorescent bulb for approximately 12 hours of light per day to help your bearded dragon process calcium.

**Bedding**: Line a juvenile's (less than 6" long) home with newspaper or reptile carpet; use a 3"-6" layer of calcium sand for adults. Clean out waste weekly and change bedding at least once a month.

### Normal Behavior and Social Interaction:

- Bearded Dragons are omnivores. They eat mostly live insects like crickets and also some vegetables.
- They have spiny skin under their throats that when "puffed up," looks like a beard.
- Bearded dragons are gentle by nature and will learn to enjoy interacting with their owners.
- Always supervise children when they're interacting with your bearded dragon.
- Handling: Give your pet 3-4 days to adjust to his new surroundings, then try holding him for short amounts of time. Take care to never handle him by the tail, as it could break off.
- Bearded dragons originally come from the desert and need a warm, dry environment.

### Health/cleanliness:

Please remember that all pets may bite or scratch, and may transmit disease to humans. Keep your pet's home clean and wash your hands before and after handling your pet or cleaning his home. Infants, young children, pregnant women, people with compromised immune systems, and the infirm or elderly are at greater risk of infections and should use caution when in contact with the pet or its habitat. Consult your doctor for more information.

**The information on this care sheet is NOT a substitute for regular veterinary care.**