

## Water Dragons



**General Information:** There are approximately eight different species of Water Dragons. It is important to research your breed before your purchase and ensure their requirements are met. Native to tropical rainforests, water dragons are arboreal and are good swimmers.

**Environment:** A spacious terrarium should be used and screened on one side for good ventilation. Branches can be placed for climbing. Provide a water dish at all times large enough for complete immersion and change and clean it daily. Many water dragons will rub their noses on the glass walls of their enclosure. If this occurs, the bottom four inches should be covered with black or dark colored paper.

**Temperature:** Provide a temperature gradient in the cage ranging from 75 degrees at the cool end to about 86 degrees in the warm end. At night, the temperature should be allowed to drop but by no more than 10 degrees. Ceramic heat emitters, or infrared bulbs provide an adequate heat source that can be left on 24 hours a day. Undertank heating pads can be used only if designed for reptiles and properly monitored. Be sure to provide a barrier between glass and heating pad to avoid burns. We recommend using multiple thermometers throughout your reptile habitat and the use of temperature “guns” that measure surface temperatures to monitor the habitat.

**NEVER USE HEAT ROCKS or other heated furnishings!**

**Lighting:** Full spectrum reptile light bulbs are essential for providing UVB rays, ensuring proper calcium absorption, and also in establishing a day/night cycle. At night, visible light needs to be turned off. We recommend 12 hours of light, 12 of dark. We recommend MegaRay UVB bulbs available from [www.reptileuv.com](http://www.reptileuv.com). We try to keep the 100 watt size in stock.

**Substrate:** Indoor/outdoor carpeting (not AstroTurf!) or Carefresh bedding is recommended. If you are using the

under-tank heating pads, be sure that the reptile cannot move substrate aside and lay on the glass immediately above the heating unit.

**Diet:** Water dragons are almost exclusively carnivorous/insectivorous. Feed arthropods (insects—no ants or spiders!), snails, small live fish, earthworms, mealworms, crickets, and occasional small amounts of fruit. Crickets purchased from the pet stores need to be fed Insectivore Fare (Reliable Protein Products) and a chopped dark, leafy greens “salad” sprinkled with calcium carbonate or calcium gluconate for at least 24-36 hours prior to using them as feed for your water dragon. T-Rex Calcium Cricket Food or T-Rex Bone Aid Calcium Carbonate without vitamin D were analyzed and provided enough calcium to make the crickets nutritionally and calcium gut loaded. Miner-all Sticky Tongue Outdoor formula can also be used to mix in with the cricket food. Do not use products that contain vitamin D.

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