



All About the

Bearded Dragon

A complimentary eBook from CheapPetStore.com

Our prices say it all. Our Pet Library makes it better.™



The Bearded Dragon

About the Bearded Dragon

The Bearded Dragon belongs to the Old World family of lizards called Agamidae. They are a group of terrestrial and semi arboreal lizards found throughout most parts of Australia and New Guinea. There are seven species of the bearded dragon; Pogona vitticeps, Pogona barbata, Pogona microlepidota, Pogona minor, Pogona mitchelli and Pogona nullarbor, which span through almost of Australia, although not in the far north. These reptiles are gaining popularity as pets as they are wonderfully tempered, intriguing in appearance and quizzical in nature. They do not get very large and require little in the nature of active training or taming to make them calm and easy to handle.



Average Length	18-22 Inches	Characteristics	Interesting appearance, even tempered
Average Lifespan	5-12 years	Special Needs	Heat lamp, humidity control
Coloring	Colorful neck "beard"	Health Concerns	Prone to parasites and dehydration

- [Health Care for Your Bearded Dragon](#)
- [Food for Your Bearded Dragon](#)

Bearded Dragon Characteristics

Bearded Dragons are among the nicest pet snakes, and they have a gentle, easy-going nature. These snakes are rarely aggressive, and even when provoked they prefer to find a way to escape safely rather than biting the attacker. Approximately 8 to 10 inches long at birth, these snakes average 3 to 4 feet at maturity. Remember to handle your snake gently, not pinching it, and let it slide through your fingers.



[Habitat](#)

Selecting Your Bearded Dragon

Before you acquire an exotic animal of any kind, it is important to research and read about its care. As the interest in owning reptiles has increased over the last several years, many books and pamphlets have been produced to help potential new owners discover what species is right for them.



[Humidity Gauge](#)

Owning a Bearded Dragon is a serious commitment. These reptiles can live 5 to 12 years in captivity. Select a Bearded Dragon that is responsive when handled. Consider not only the overall look of the dragon, but also its current living conditions; this will give you an indication of how well it is currently being cared for. Don't hesitate to ask the pet shop owner to throw a live cricket in with any dragon that you are considering; if it immediately goes after the cricket, that dragon might be the one for you. Be sure to only select a dragon from a pet shop or breeder in which all animals appear to be healthy and well cared for.

Some things to look for:

- full and plump bodies and tails
- slightly rounded stomach
- healthy skin without mites or ticks
- bright and clear eyes

 [Send this eBook to a Friend](#)

Selecting Your Bearded Dragon's Habitat

When selecting your reptile's habitat, it is important to consider several things such as what type and size is appropriate, as well as substrate, temperature, light, furniture, and what type of feeding accommodations are necessary.

Type and Size of Your Bearded Dragon's Habitat

A 10-gallon aquarium tank is suitable for a hatchling, which can then be transferred to adult quarters at approximately six months of age. Adults require ample space; at the very minimum, a single bearded dragon requires a 40-gallon tank. If you are housing two, you should have at least a 55 gallon tank ready.

Lighting plays two roles. First, natural sunlight or full spectrum lighting is vital for calcium metabolism. The operative wavelengths are in the ultraviolet UVB range, which is offered by a few "full spectrum" fluorescent-type bulbs. The UVB stimulates the skin to synthesize vitamin D. All full-spectrum bulbs lose the UVB component of their output with time and must be replaced every six months. Note that the UVB does not penetrate glass or plastic; don't use a glass top on your dragon's lair--use a screen top. Place both UVB and basking lights on an appliance timer (12 to 14 hours on; off at night). Erratic day lengths will mess up their circadian rhythms and make them first lethargic and then actively sick. They detect environmental cues important to their circadian rhythms through their "third eye," the parietal eye. The dark period will also allow night temperatures to fall appropriately. Temperature can go down to the 60s or even the upper 50s without harm. Dragons are well adapted to cool semi-desert nights.

Habitat Care and Maintenance

Any debris and feces should be removed from the tank on a daily basis. Folded paper towel or newspaper can be placed in the toilet area and removed as soon as it is soiled.

Maintaining a happy and healthy habitat for your dragon can be generally easy, as long as you keep up with it. Regularly change your substrate to assure and maintain good health. Bearded dragons have an active metabolism, so plan on changing it often. For routine cleaning, it is safe to use an antibacterial soap; periodically, you can use a 10% bleach solution to disinfect their cage and furniture; just be sure to rinse everything thoroughly and always disinfect the area that you cleaned the tank in to avoid leaving behind any residual Salmonella.

Feeding

Dragons are omnivores, requiring both insect and vegetable food, in about one-to-one proportions. Between three and six weeks, feed your dragon small crickets two to five times a day, including greens and veggies in the morning, and water them once or twice. Youngsters also love to chase, capture and eat fruit flies, which probably give them more exercise than sustenance. As their size increases, dragons can take more and larger food items and more vegetable matter. Increase the variety in each category. After two months, care becomes less demanding and they can be fed insects once or twice a day, feeding them all they will eat at a time. Greens and veggies offered in the morning can be increased.



You'll need these basics before your Bearded Dragon comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

- [Habitat](#)
- [Habitat Bedding](#)
- [UV Light](#)
- [Debris Scooper](#)



[Lizard Lagoon](#)



[Lizard Liner](#)

The Bearded Dragon Baby

At this stage of your Bearded Dragon's life, starting them out properly will ensure that you keep a happy and healthy Bearded Dragon for the span of their life. Between three and six weeks, feed your dragon small crickets two to five times a day, greens and veggies in the morning, and water them once or twice. After two months, care becomes less demanding and they can be fed insects once or twice a day, feeding them all they will eat at a time. Greens and veggies offered in the morning can be increased. Babies will eat more greens than veggies.

The Bearded Dragon Adult

As your Bearded Dragon grows, their needs change. You will want to be sure your adult Bearded Dragon has adjusted to their surroundings. Adults can be fed insects every other day, with daily greens and veggies. Some stop eating for periods, without ill effects. Keep plenty of water around for your Dragon so they can re-hydrate themselves and ensure they are properly being taken care of.

The Senior Bearded Dragon

As you go through the years with your Bearded Dragon, you will want to ensure they are comfortable, kept warm, adhering to their diets, and maintaining their light source. Annual visits to a veterinarian who specializes in reptiles are essential in ensuring that your Bearded Dragon stays healthy for years to come.

Medical Considerations

When kept in optimum conditions, the bearded dragon is a relatively healthy species of reptile. In adults, there is the risk of fatty liver disease/mycosis, renal failure, URI, parasites, egg binding (ruptured eggs that a female did not lay) and viral infections. Within the juveniles, dehydration, parasites, impaction, viral infection, URI and renal failure can all possibly come up.

Necessary Items

For youngsters, a minimalist decorating scheme will be fine, with one elevated basking area, a hiding area, and paper towels as a substrate. Put the basking area closer to the heat source. If you supply a plethora of neat branches and rocks, you inadvertently provide abundant places for crickets to hide. Hiding crickets are problems in two ways: 1) the 'beardies' can't eat what they can't find; and more serious 2) the crickets come out at night and nibble on them; beardies tend to sleep quite soundly. At best the crickets stress the dragons; at worst they maim by, for instance, chewing holes in their eyelids.

House your dragon somewhere interesting--for the dragon. They prefer to be in the thick of things, where they can watch their pet humans display their incomprehensible activities. Do not hide them away in a seldom frequented bedroom. They have immense curiosity!



Can't miss gifts for the Bearded Dragon owner:

- [Bearded Dragon Book](#)
- [Travel Carrier](#)
- [Basking Platform](#)



[Crickets](#)

 [Send this eBook to a Friend](#)

Popular Products for Your Bearded Dragon

- [Food](#)
- [Exo--Terra Fogger](#)
- [Tropical Mist](#)
- [Repti Shedding Aid](#)
- [Reptile Relief for Mites](#)
- [Appetite Stimulant](#)
- [Calcium Spray](#)
- [Screen Hinged Tank Cover](#)
- [Screen Clips](#)



[Bearded Dragon Book](#)

 Send this eBook to a Friend



[Bearded Dragon Food](#)



[Calcium and Vitamin D](#)



[Repti Wound Healing Aid](#)



[Hammock](#)



[Travel Carrier](#)



[Starter Kit](#)

Attention Webmasters: Publishing of this document without express written authorization of Cheap Pet Store, Inc. is deemed unlawful.