



All About the **Iguana**

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The Iguana

About the Iguana

The Iguana is an active, during the daylight, lizard. Iguanas originate from tropical rainforest climates and habitats. This complimentary eBook will not only inform you on this interesting reptile, but guide you through the steps of how to properly care for your new Iguana pet. We hope you enjoy this informative source of Iguana information to not only have a healthy Iguana, but a happy Iguana pet.

Average Length	5-6 feet	Characteristics	Vegetarians
Average Lifespan	15-20 years	Special Needs	Sun and heat lamp, humidity control
Coloring	Greens	Health Concerns	Prone to mites and worms

Iguana Characteristics

Iguanas live and thrive with the use of the sun. Their day-to-day routine will consist of eating, staying away from predators (when in their natural habitat) and finding a sunny place to bask in the sun. The Iguana relies on the UV rays of the sun to synthesize Vitamin D3, which is essential in promoting proper growth and health in the Iguana. This reptile requires a vegetable-only diet, making them vegetarians. The sun's heat aids the Iguana in their digestion. The heat activates bacteria in the Iguana that consumes fibrous vegetable matter. Iguanas are light green in color when young and a muted green as they get older. Iguanas are known to be carriers of salmonella, so wash your hands before eating or preparing food and after handling your Iguana. Iguanas have a life span of 15 to 20 years.

Selecting Your Iguana

When buying an Iguana, be sure that you are well informed as to what you'll be purchasing. The pet store that you purchase from should be knowledgeable about the breed of Iguana they sell, as well as where they came from and their eating habits. They should also be able to inform you on how to care for your new Iguana. You will always want to make sure the Iguana you buy is of the captive breed, so as to limit any risk of it having parasites. You will also want to make sure you are not purchasing an imported Iguana, as they tend to be disease prone.

Select an iguana that is responsive when handled. Consider not only the overall look of the iguana, but also its current living conditions; this will give you an indication of how well it is currently being cared for. Be sure to only select an Iguana 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
- healthy skin with sleek scales
- bright and clear eyes



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Selecting Your Iguana's Habitat

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

Type and Size of Your Iguana's Habitat

When bringing home your new Iguana pet, you will want to prepare your home for your new edition. Heat, light and space are all essential elements needed by your Iguana. Buying a large terrarium will ensure that your Iguana has enough space to continue to exist in their semi-natural habitat. Iguana does also need plenty of light to aide in the process of metabolizing calcium. To replace the natural sunlight needed by the Iguana, you should have a florescent light in the terrarium to supply them with the UVB rays they need. Iguana's also need heat to help in the digestion of their food. You can purchase an incandescent heat lamp, or under cage heating pads, to provide the heat source your Iguana needs. To keep your Iguana safe and secure, make sure you use substrate in their terrariums instead of sand or carpet. Also ensure that there are things left about in the home that will harm your Iguana, and also that things are secure enough to prevent your Iguana from escaping.

Iguanas do well with a temperature of gradient of 80 to 85 degrees during the day and around 75 degrees at night. Make sure the tank has adequate ventilation to make sure excess humidity does not build up.

The Iguana does not require many cage accessories, and a simple arrangement will be easiest to clean and maintain. Your Iguana will enjoy having a large rock to "sun" himself on.

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 snake can be generally easy, as long as you keep up with it. Regularly change your substrate to assure and maintain good health.

Feeding

Iguanas are primarily vegetarians, but can and do enjoy the occasional mill worm as babies. Baby Iguanas should start off with vegetables, fruit and the occasional small insect. As your Iguana ages, he will only need fruit and vegetables. As the Iguana ages, his feeding schedule will change as well. By the time he is in his 'senior' years, he will need to be fed 2-3 times each day.



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

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The Iguana Baby

At this stage of your Iguana's life, starting them out properly will ensure that you keep a happy and healthy Iguana for the span of its life. Baby Iguanas should be kept warm. Temperatures of 80 to 85 degrees during the day and 75 degrees during the night are good for your baby Iguana. You will also need to start them on a healthy diet. Baby Iguanas can start off eating vegetables, fruit and small insects, such as mill worms. Ensuring the proper environment for your baby Iguana is important. You can start off with a small cage in the beginning, but it is suggested that you get a big enough cage to house your Iguana as it grows, which it does fairly rapidly. Paying attention and caring for your baby Iguana properly will ensure a positive transition into adulthood for your baby Iguana.

The Iguana Adult

As your Iguana grows, its needs change. You will want to be sure your adult Iguana has adjusted to its surrounding. Space is essential to the adult Iguana, as it can grow to be five to six feet. Adult Iguana's diet changes as it ages--when you once feed them insects, they now require only vegetables and fruit. As an adult male, the Iguana can become aggressive during the mating season. Iguana's teeth are sharper at this stage in their lives, so be sure to keep them away from small children to avoid biting. Keeping the proper lighting, heating and diet for your Iguana will ensure a healthy Iguana through the golden years.

The Senior Iguana

As you go through the years with your Iguana, 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 Iguana stays healthy for years to come.

Medical Considerations

When kept in optimum conditions, the Iguana is a relatively healthy species of reptile. Iguanas can be prone to mite infestations and worms. If a proper diet, heating and lighting is not maintained, the Iguana can die from Metabolic Bone Disease.

Necessary Items

When you initially bring your new Iguana home, you only need the basics, including an aquarium with paper towel or newspaper across the bottom, a few hide-boxes, a basking rock and some feeding dishes. As you get to know your new pet, you will discover what he likes and dislikes; you may decide to add a few fake plants or stick with rocks and hide boxes.



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