



Iguana facts:

- Green Iguanas can reach 5 to 6 feet and weigh up to 18 pounds.
 - Adult male iguanas can become very aggressive during breeding season.
 - Iguanas need to be handled every day to keep tame.
 - Iguanas like to put things in their mouths, just like children, so be sure to iguana proof all areas they may be exposed to.
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Animal and Avian Medical Center



Iguana Care and Husbandry



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Habitat

Creating a proper Iguana habitat is imperative to the health and overall wellbeing of your Iguana.

Heating:

Iguanas require a temperature gradient of 75-100°F to digest food

Day: 85-100°F
Night: 75-85°F

An under tank heat source will aid in maintaining at least the minimum temperature, then a heat lamp can be added to bring the temperature to the high end of the range in their basking area.

DO NOT USE HOT ROCKS.

Lighting:

Iguanas require ultraviolet lighting for proper calcium metabolism. UV-B causes their skin to make vitamin D3 which allows them to take up calcium from what they eat. 8 hours of direct sunlight or UV-B lighting is best.

Substrate:

Good habitat substrates include flat newspaper, fake grass, bark chips, alfalfa pellets and Cyprus mulch. Never use cedar, gravel, fine bark or sand (unless desert species)

Housing:

Provide a secure housing box made from cardboard, pottery, etc. Tree climbing species need branches to hide in.



BASIC CARE:

Soaks:

Iguanas should have two separate containers for water in their enclosure; one for drinking and one to soak in.

The second bowl should be large enough for your iguana to submerge itself. If you are unable to equip your iguana's enclosure with a soaking bowl, they should be removed and soaked. Depending on the humidity in the enclosure, iguanas should be soaked from twice weekly to once monthly. Allow them to be partially submerged (at least halfway up the body) in lukewarm water for about 10 minutes. Commonly, iguanas will eliminate in their soak so care must be taken to replace the water frequently.

Mist:

To aid in increasing water intake and humidity, mist your iguana and food sources daily. Humidity should be at about 30-40%. If your iguana does not drink from a bowl, a drip system should be used.

DIET

Iguanas should be on a vegetable only diet. Each meal should contain ingredients from each category:

- Calcium rich: 70-80%- Use a variety of turnip greens, mustard greens, beet greens, kale, collards, bok choy, swiss chard, dandelions, parsley, romaine, escardes, spinach and alfalfa pellets.
- Other veggies: 20-30%- Variety of frozen mixed veggies, squash, zucchini, sweet potato, bell pepper, beans, okra, grated carrots and sprouts.
- Grain and fiber: 5-10%- Whole grain bread and natural bran cereal.
- Fruit: no more than 5-10%
- Vitamin and mineral supplements: Sold in stores.
- Other things they can eat include figs, tofu, roses and carnations.

**COMMERCIAL IGUANA
DIETS ARE INADEQUATE
NUTRITION**

