

Bearded Dragon

Bearded dragons are great reptiles for beginners as they make brilliant companions. Due to captive selective breeding, there are many different morphs available. When young, these lizards are very active and require lots of attention. When older, they become much lazier and will happily sit out with you for hours. Males can be housed with multiple females but cannot be housed together.



Glossary

Reptile – A cold-blooded vertebrate with scaly skin.

Amphibian – A cold-blooded vertebrate that begins life as an aquatic animal and grows into a terrestrial adult with lungs.

Terrestrial – A ground dwelling animal.

Arboreal – An animal that lives in trees.

Diurnal – Awake in the day.

Nocturnal – Awake during the night.

UVB – Ultraviolet radiation.

Colubrid – A family of snakes.

Hybrid – Offspring from animals of different species.

Morph – Colourations created due to genetics.

Musk – Unpleasant odour released when an animal is stressed or feels threatened.

Live plants are only available on special order

If you require any further information, please ask our pet care advisors who will be very happy to help.

Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

Chessington Garden Centre

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Bearded Dragon



Care & Advice Sheet

Inspiration for your Home & Garden



Size & Housing

Most bearded dragons reach around 20 inches in length but some sub-species can get larger than this. They need plenty of space to run around in and are best suited in long, wooden vivariums.

115 x 37.5 x 42cm / 45 x 15 x 16.5" – Minimum for 1 Adult

115 x 49 x 56cm / 45 x 19 x 22" – Minimum for 2 Adults



Handling

Younger dragons should be handled little and often as they are very energetic and likely to try and run off. Adults are slower and happier to sit with their owner for a longer period of time. Always support the body and tail. If they feel threatened, they will puff out their beards which may turn black.

Substrate & Furnishings

For young bearded dragons it is best to use reptile carpet, kitchen towel or newspaper due to the risk of impaction. Adult bearded dragons can be housed on loose substrates such as reptile sand, beech chips, corncob granules or desert bedding. They are ground dwelling lizards but they will appreciate ledges, branches and high areas to bask on. They're native to the arid woodlands and deserts of Australia so the enclosure can be decorated to suit either habitat. Spot pick the enclosure daily and full clean once or twice a month using a reptile specific disinfectant.

Lighting & Temperature

Provide essential UVB (12%) to create a daytime cycle of 10–12 hours a day. This is best controlled by a timer. They require a basking area with a temperature around 36–38°C – this is best achieved by using a heat bulb or ceramic heat emitter with a guard, controlled by a thermostat at all times. There should be a temperature gradient across the enclosure with a cool end dropping by a few degrees. Night time temperatures can drop to 18°C.

Food & Water

Bearded dragons are omnivores and should be fed a variety of appropriate sized insects such as:

- Crickets
- Mealworms
- Roaches
- Locusts
- Waxworms (treat)

Insects should be gut loaded before feeding and dusted with a calcium supplement 3 times a week and multivitamins (Nutrobal) once a week.

Younger dragons require more live food but older dragons require more salad than live food.

Fresh water should be offered daily however, it is unlikely to see them drink as most of their water comes from their greens. Suitable salad options include:

- Dark leafy greens
- Watercress
- Kale
- Rocket
- Mixed peppers
- Treats:**
- Berries
- Apple
- Carrot