

Chinese Water Dragon

Chinese water dragons are considered a medium sized lizard and are commonly mistaken for iguanas. These semi-arboreal lizards have a lifespan of 10-15 years. Their colouration varies across dark brown, green to lighter shades of green with white. The colour of their throat can also vary greatly. Males cannot be kept together however, it is very hard to sex them as they both show females features until mature.



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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Care & Advice Sheet

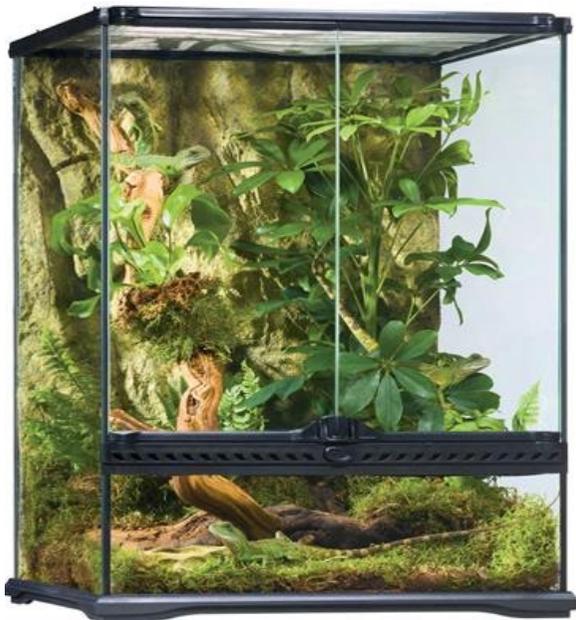
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Size & Housing

Male water dragons are large and can reach up to 3 foot while females usually only reach up to 2 foot in length. They require plenty of space on the ground and adequate height for climbing. It is best to get a custom made enclosure for the adult's vivarium.

72 x 24 x 60" – Minimum for 1 Adult



Substrate & Furnishings

Chinese water dragons can be housed on loose substrates such as orchid bark, rainforest barks, jungle earth or a mixture with soil based substrates but young dragons can have health issues with soil substrates if it is very dry and dusty. They will need ledges, branches and high areas to bask on that are large enough to support their weight. Artificial or live plants should also be used but not all plants are reptile friendly. Spot pick the enclosure daily and full clean once or twice a month using a reptile specific disinfectant.

Please Note – Not all live plants are reptile friendly.

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 29–31°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 the cool end dropping by a few degrees. Night time temperatures can drop but should not fall below 24°C.

Food & Water

Chinese water dragons are carnivores and should be fed a variety of appropriate sized food items such as:

- Locusts
- Crickets
- Roaches
- Mealworms
- Waxworms (treat)
- Pinkies and fuzzy mice (adult)

Some dragons will eat fruit and vegetables such as dark leafy greens. Insects should be gut loaded before feeding and dusted with a calcium supplement 3 times a week and multivitamins (Nutrobal) once a week. Fresh water should be offered daily in a large dish. The enclosure should be misted 1–2 times a day to maintain the humidity at 70–80%.

Handling

Young water dragons can be tamed easily and become tolerant of handling. Adults are harder to tame and will take time and patience to gain their trust. They are more likely to run away than to try and bite but patience is the key with taming them. They are naturally quite skittish.