

Chuckwalla

Chuckwallas are best suited to someone with experience in keeping reptiles. They are found in desert regions across south-western America and north-western Mexico and are diurnal lizards. In captivity, Chuckwallas are expected to live more than 20 years. Males can be kept with one or more 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

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Chuckwalla



Care & Advice Sheet

Inspiration for your Home & Garden



Size & Housing

Chuckwallas usually reach between 14 to 20 inches in length. They require large enclosures to maintain the correct environment and are best suited in long, wooden vivariums.

48 x 18 x 18" – Minimum for 1 Adult

60 x 24 x 24" – Minimum for 2 Adults



Substrate & Furnishings

Chuckwallas should be housed on substrates such as reptile sand or desert bedding. Although terrestrial, they need branches, ledges and high areas to bask on. Use artificial plants for decoration as they may try to eat live plants. Any rocks used should be secure so that they cannot fall on the lizard. 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 of at least 38°C or higher – 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 that does not drop below 28°C. Night time temperatures can drop to 23°C.

Food & Water

Chuckwallas are mainly herbivorous and should be fed a variety of greens such as:

- Dark leafy greens
- Watercress
- Rocket
- Mixed peppers
- Butternut Squash
- Dandelion greens
- Kale

The food should be dusted with a calcium supplement 3 times a week and multivitamins (Nutrobal) once a week. They may be offered insects such as locusts, crickets or mealworms on occasion. A water bowl can be provided in the cool end of the enclosure and fresh water should be given daily.

Handling

These lizards are quite skittish and are able to evade predators by wedging themselves into tight spots and inflating. They may drop their tails if they feel especially threatened. Handling should be attempted little and often with support given to the whole body. They should calm down eventually but may react harshly until comfortable.