

Iguana

Includes red and green



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Iguanas start life as six-inch hatchlings but can grow up to six feet in total length. Some young iguanas are bright green, which help camouflage their bodies in the green leaves of the rainforest. Iguanas come in different color variations such as red and green.



Is an iguana the right companion animal for you?

| Yes | No |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

- I have enough space for an iguana that can grow up to 6 feet.
- I can meet the complex dietary needs of an iguana.
- I can spend one to two hours each day with my iguana.
- I can provide daily, supervised time outside the cage.
- I can commit to providing proper care for this lizard.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this companion animal.

If you answered, "Yes" to these statements, an iguana may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for an iguana and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

Adult Size 4 to 6 feet long

Life Span 15+ years with proper care

Diet Feed the following mix: 70% Dark leafy greens: collard greens, spinach and mustard greens; 20% Bulk Vegetables: cabbage, carrots, green beans, peas, broccoli and zucchini (avoid iceberg lettuce as it has no nutritional value); 10% Fruit: mango, papaya, banana, strawberries and melon

Feeding Feed once a day; food should be chopped, shredded, or grated into small chunks; Sprinkle food with calcium daily and a multi-vitamin/mineral supplement once or twice a week

Housing Due to the varied sizes and growth rates of reptiles, and their individualized needs, we recommend you consult your qualified reptile veterinarian and a book on this species to determine it's specific housing requirements

Size – Appropriate size tank with a secure cover; as the iguana grows, a larger habitat will be required; the iguana should be able to freely turn and move around in the habitat

Habitat – Provide a hiding area; branches for basking; maintain 70-90% humidity by misting daily

Substrate –Use pellet or mulch-type; iguanas may eat their substrate, if they do, switch to something safe to eat, like paper or an edible substrate

Temperature – Temperature gradient (100°F for the warm end and 70°F for the cool end); recommend radiant heat; use an incandescent light or ceramic heater as primary heat source

Lighting – UVB rays with full spectrum lighting for 10-12 hours a day is required; an incandescent bulb can be used for basking area during daylight hours only; can use a ceramic heater at all hours

Water – Provide a constant supply of clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water

House iguanas separately and do not house different species of reptiles together

Recommended Supplies

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate size habitat with secure lid | <input type="checkbox"/> Full spectrum fluorescent light | <input type="checkbox"/> Incandescent light or ceramic heater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humidity gauge | <input type="checkbox"/> Water and food bowls | <input type="checkbox"/> Undertank heater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer | <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiding area and basking log |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about iguanas | <input type="checkbox"/> Misting bottle | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin/mineral supplement |

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Normal Behavior and Interaction

May become tame with daily handling; bob their head as a means of communication
Males may become territorial; healthy iguanas sneeze to rid their bodies of excess salts
Never grab iguanas by their tails as they may detach their tail if grabbed from behind

Habitat Maintenance

Provide clean water and remove feces daily
Thoroughly clean the tank at least once week: place iguana in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach; dry completely the tank and furnishings; and add clean substrate

Grooming and Hygiene

Trim an iguana's claws as needed
Iguanas regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is at appropriate level to allow proper shedding
To facilitate shedding, bathe in a large container that allows the iguana to immerse its entire body or provide a shed box, which is essentially a hide box with damp sphagnum moss, that will aid in the shedding process
Always wash your hands before and after touching your iguana or habitat contents to help prevent *Salmonella* and other infectious diseases

Signs of a Healthy Animal

- Active, alert, and interested in humans
- Body and tail are rounded, filled out
- Clear nose and vent
- Clear eyes
- Healthy skin
- Eats regularly

Common Health Issues

| Health Issue | Symptoms or Causes | Suggested Action |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Kidney Disease | Weight loss, lethargy, swollen abdomen, neck, or eyes, and frequent drinking or urinating. Main cause is dehydration. | If left untreated, can be fatal. Consult your exotic animal veterinarian. |
| Metabolic Bone/Vitamin Deficiency | Inability to absorb calcium due to insufficient UVB light. If untreated, can lead to a disorder characterized by deformities and softened bones. Swollen limbs and lethargy. | Provide ample UVB lighting and consult your exotic animal veterinarian. |
| Respiratory Disease | Labored breathing and mucus in the mouth or nose. Can be caused by a habitat that is too cold or damp. | Ensure habitat is appropriately warm. Consult your veterinarian. |

Red Flags

- Weight loss or decreased appetite
- Swelling
- Bumps, sores, or abrasions on skin
- Paralysis of limbs or tail
- Mucus in mouth or nose
- Lethargy
- Labored breathing
- Abnormal feces

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.

Sources *Iguanas for Dummies* by Melissa Kaplan

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.