

Collared Lizard

Crotaphytus collaris



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

The collared lizard is named for black bands behind the head, which resemble a collar. The males have brightly colored throats of blue, green, or orange, while the females have fawn or gray coloration.



Is a collared lizard the right companion animal for you?

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

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

- I can accommodate a habitat requiring an electrical heat source.
- I want a pet that doesn't need to be cuddled or touched.
- I feel comfortable feeding live food to a collared lizard.
- I can commit to providing proper care for a collared lizard.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this animal.

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

Average Size 6 to 10 inches long

Life Span 10 + years with proper care

Diet Provide a variety of live insects, including gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets, mealworms, waxworms, kingworms, butterworms; pinkie mice for adults

Feeding Feed adults every other day; juveniles daily; provide a multiple vitamin/mineral supplement once or twice a week and calcium daily

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 and shape habitat to accommodate normal behaviors and exercise

Habitat – Use an undertank heater on one end of the tank, another area should be kept as a cooling area and misted frequently to maintain humidity; a hide area of branches and potted non-toxic plants, or a hide box in the tank is also necessary; a rock or log for basking

Substrate –Use commercial sand, pelleted or mulch type; lizards may eat their substrate, if they do, switch to something they cannot eat, like paper or cage carpet, or an edible substrate

Temperature – Temperature gradient is needed (100° F. for the warm end and 85° F. for the cool end); nighttime temperature should be 75° F; use an incandescent light or ceramic heater as the primary heat source

Lighting – Provide needed UVB rays with full spectrum fluorescent light for 10 to 12 hours a day; incandescent light is needed for basking area

Water – May not drink from a bowl; misting the tank may be necessary to provide moisture on non-toxic plants and in collecting pools in the tank; a shallow bowl of fresh, chlorine-free water should be available daily for when they do drink and to increase humidity

House adult males separately; do not house different species of reptiles together

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Recommended Supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat with secure lid | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer | <input type="checkbox"/> Full spectrum fluorescent light |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Basking rock or log | <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin/calcium supplements |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Undertank heater or heat source | <input type="checkbox"/> Incandescent light or ceramic heater | <input type="checkbox"/> Mist bottle and humidity gauge |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Book about arid lizards | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow bowl | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-toxic plants, branches |

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Normal Behavior and Interaction Collared lizards are active during the day
Can become stressed when handled; regular handling is not recommended

Habitat Maintenance Thoroughly clean the tank at least once a week: set lizard aside in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach; add clean substrate

Grooming and Hygiene Always wash your hands before and after touching your lizard or habitat contents to help prevent *Salmonella* and other infectious diseases

Signs of a Healthy Animal

- Active and alert
- Healthy skin
- Clear eyes
- Eats regularly
- Clear nose and vent
- Body and tail are rounded and full

Common Health Issues

Health Issue (alpha)	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Gastro-intestinal Disease	Runny stools, caked or smeared stool around the vent area, and loss of appetite caused by bacterial or parasitic infection.	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, runny nose, swollen eyes. Can be caused by temperatures that are too cold.	Ensure proper lighting, water, and basking conditions. If condition persists, 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 *Lizard Care from A to Z* by Richard D. Bartlett & Patricia Pope Bartlett
Lizard Keeper's Handbook by Philippe De Vosjoli

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.