



Dragonz N' Cornz

Randy & Stephanie Hays
www.dragonzncornz.com
stephanie@dragonzncornz.com

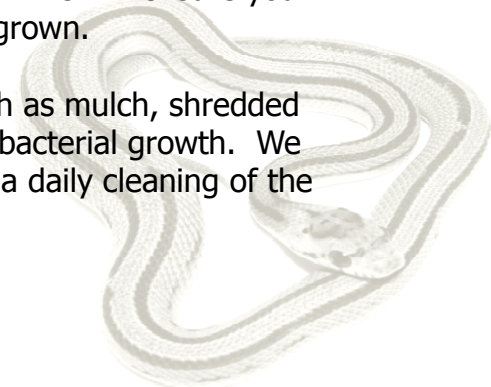
Bearded Dragon (Pagona Vitticeps) Care Sheet

Bearded Dragons (genus Pagona Vitticeps) are one of the most popular lizards you can have as a pet. Their beautiful array of colors, different textures, and patterns make choosing just one near impossible. Their typical growth range is 18" to 24". They're docile, hearty, and fairly easy to feed and care for. Their average lifespan is 10-12 years. Bearded Dragons are fun for the beginning hobbyist to the experienced Herpetologist.

Here are a few things you should know when you bring a baby bearded dragon home. He/She will be scared. It's best to put them into their enclosure and not handle them for a few days. This allows them to become acclimated to the sights and smells of their new home; and also become used to their food/bath/light schedule. After the first week, it's okay to hold him/her for a short period of time (10-15 minutes). Make sure you keep the length of time you handle your bearded dragon brief in the beginning, as it will take a few weeks for them to become fully acclimated.

Housing: Bearded dragons can be housed in a variety of enclosures as long as their basic requirements are met. Glass aquaria with wire tops are commonly used; however, custom built enclosures are also very popular when sized appropriately. We recommend your enclosure to be 48x18x18. This will ensure your bearded dragon has enough room to comfortably move around once they are full grown.

Substrate: Good substrates are newspaper, tile, or reptile carpet. Substrates such as mulch, shredded tree bark, or corn cob should not be used as they can hold moisture and promote bacterial growth. We also do not recommend sand as it can cause impaction problems. We recommend a daily cleaning of the substrate and a full cleaning of the enclosure monthly.





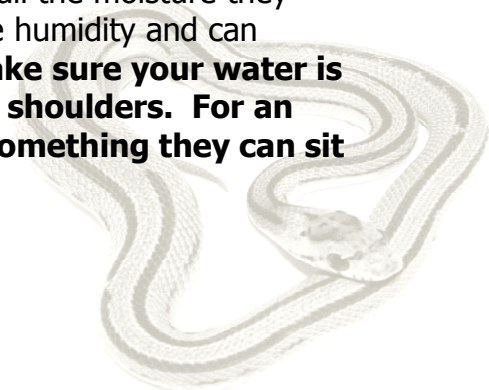
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Lighting/Heat: Bearded Dragons are cold blooded animals that need to have a heated source in their environment to thermo-regulate (control their body temperature). If there is not sufficient heat available, they can not digest their food properly. A heat gradient (a gradual increase of heat from the cool side to the warm side) in the enclosure is ideal at 75F to 85F. This allows the bearded dragon to find the temp they desire to feel comfortable. You must also supply a basking spot (where the light points) that will reach 95F to 105F. We recommend a basking light on only one side of the enclosure to ensure you acquire a proper heat gradient. **Note: Never use Heat Rocks for reptiles, they tend to overheat and can severely burn your reptile.**

Lighting/UVB: Bearded dragons require UVB lighting in their cage. It helps in synthesizing vitamin D-3 which is required for calcium absorption and healthy bone growth. These are the long tube lights you purchase from a pet store. Never use the tube lights you can purchase from a home supply store. They are not coated properly for your bearded dragon, and do not emit UVB. We do not recommend using UVB coil lights, they have been known to cause severe eye burns and can be harmful to your dragons mental well being.

Water: Bearded dragons do not need standing water in their cage. They receive all the moisture they need from the greens they eat daily and a weekly bath. Standing water will create humidity and can cause respiratory infections. **Note: for your weekly bath you will want to make sure your water is luke warm. For juveniles you only need to fill up the bath to the dragon's shoulders. For an adult you can have it a bit deeper so they can swim, but place a rock or something they can sit on if they get tired.**





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Multiples: We recommend only keeping a single bearded dragon per enclosure. These lizards live alone in the wild and tend to be territorial. They can and will fight for their territory sometimes causing injury or death to a cage mate.

Meals: Bearded dragons should be offered a varied diet consisting of crickets, superworms, roaches and a variety of greens and vegetables. Juvenile animals can be raised on small crickets, small roaches and greens until large enough to eat superworms, large crickets, and large roaches. It is very important to regulate the size cricket given to juvenile dragons. Large meals have been associated with partial paralysis and hind leg extension. A general rule is to use crickets no larger than the distance between the dragon's eyes to the tip of his nose, and should be offered in several small meals per day rather than one large meal. Insects should be dusted with a calcium/D3 supplement six times a week, and a vitamin supplement once a week. Fresh greens, such as turnip greens, collard greens and mustard greens should be finely chopped and offered every day. Be sure to thoroughly wash all greens and vegetables before offering them to your dragon. **Check out our links page for recommended feed suppliers.**

This information is not intended to cover everything. Please do your research before purchasing a bearded dragon. They can be a great addition to your family and give you years of enjoyment.

