



Reptile Systems

We create your best solutions

ZONE 3
UVI 2.9 - 7.4

ZONE 4
UVI 4.5 - 8.0



Bearded Dragon

Pogona vitticeps

Distribution

Madagascar



Adult Size

45-60cm
(18-24 inches)



Life Span

10-20 years



Experience

Beginner



Handling

Can be handled



Natural habitat

The natural range of a Bearded Dragon is wide but typically they are found in shrubland and dry, semi desert areas.

Housing

Bearded Dragons do best within a wooden vivarium because wood is an excellent insulator of heat and so a wooden vivarium will make it easier to control the crucial temperatures required inside the habitat. The minimum enclosure size would be 120 x 60 x 60 cm (48x24x24 inches) this allows sufficient length to allow for the creation of a temperature gradient. If you can provide a larger enclosure, then this will benefit your animal.



Heating

Bearded Dragons will need a temperature range of 18-43°C (65-109°F).



Basking spot maximum

43°C (109°F)

Ambient daytime range

27-29°C (80-85°F)

Ambient night-time range

18-21°C (65-70°F)

The basking and ambient temperatures are easily achieved using Reptile Systems Basking Spot Lamps in combination with a Reptile Systems Medium or Large Black Clamp lamp.

If additional night-time heat is needed this can be achieved using a Reptile Systems Ceramic Heat Emitter Lamps in combination with a Reptile Systems Medium or Large Black Clamp lamp.

Always ensure that heating products are run through a suitable dimming thermostat and ensure they correctly caged off so that your animal can not burn itself.

Lighting

Bearded Dragons are between zone 3 & 4 in the Ferguson scale the require a UVI of 3-5 within their basking zone ranging down to zero in the cooler / shaded areas of the enclosure. The ideal photo period would be 12 hours with all the lights on and 12 hours with all the lights off.

The recommended UVI range can easily achieved using and Reptile Systems Zone 3 T5 / T8 Lamp when used with a reflector. If you are providing taller enclosure above 60cm (24") then we recommend using a Mercury Vapour lamp in combination with linier T5 / T8 lighting to meet the required UVI.



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Please note Mercury Vapour lamps provide UVA, UVB and heat and can not be run through a thermostat.



Substrate



It is a bit of a challenge to reproduce the natural hard packed soil that bearded dragons would live on in the wild as we are unable to replicate weathering, but a compacted sand and soil mix works very well. This can be used in combination with rough tiles, rocks, and slate.

Water / humidity

Bearded Dragons should be provided with fresh water daily, in a reasonable sized bowl with is heavy enough that your pet can not tip. Bearded Dragons require an ambient humidity of 35-40%.



Diet / Nutrition



Bearded Dragons are omnivores as young animals (up to the age of 1 year) their diet should be 70% insects and 30% vegetation. As adults a Bearded Dragon's diet should be 70% vegetation and 30% insects. You should offer a wide variety of both insects and vegetation; it is important to remember to gut load your insects prior to feeding and this can be easily achieved using Reptile Systems Insect Food. Reptile Systems Calcium Ultra should be used 3 times a week as a dust on either vegetation or insects and Reptile Systems Vit-a-min should be used twice a week as a dust on vegetation or insects (as a guide for adult animals).

Handling

Bearded Dragons can be easily handled. With any new reptile it is suggested that a 2 week settling in period is given in which handling does not take place. Handling should be limited to 20-30 minutes at a time, so your animal does not get too cold.



Suggested Reptile Systems Products

Medium / Large Black Clamp Lamp

Multi directional ceramic lamp fitting with reflector.

Basking Halo Spot

Provides UVA and heat.

Zone 3 T5 lamp

UVB fluorescent full spectrum lamp, requires a ballast unit.

Zone 3 T8 lamp

UVB fluorescent full spectrum lamp, requires a ballast unit.

Zone 3 Eco Unit

UVB fluorescent full spectrum lamp, reliable electronic controller.

T8 Electronic Controller

Flicker free ballast unit for T8 lamps.

Proten New Dawn LED

LED light source to support live plants.

Ceramic Heat Emitter

Perfect for creating ambient heat with no light.

Reptile Systems Mercury Vapor

Provides a source of UVA, UVB and heat.

This care guide with slight adjustments could also be applied to Rankins Dragon's, Ackie (spiny -tailed) Monitor's and Eastern Collared Lizards

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