

# Bearded Dragon

Bearded Dragons are among the most popular pet reptiles in the hobby. Their interesting behaviors and docile nature make them an excellent pet for first time reptile hobbyists. All Bearded Dragons found in the USA are captive bred. Many different color morphs are becoming available making the Bearded Dragon a great choice for any level reptile keeper.

- **Common Name:** Bearded Dragon
- **Scientific Name:** *Pogona vitticeps*
- **Distribution:** Australia
- **Size:** 16-20"
- **Life Span:** 5-15 years

## Habitat

- Juvenile Bearded Dragons need a minimum 20 gallon terrarium. Juveniles can be housed together in a 30 gallon terrarium.
- Adult Bearded Dragons need a minimum 40+ gallon terrarium.
- Provide plenty of hiding and basking places.
- Thick branches, rocks or Mopani Wood is an excellent choice for climbing and basking

## Heating

- Daytime Terrarium Temperature: 83-88° F.
- Basking Spot: 95-105° F
- Nighttime Temperature: 70°- 80°F.
- A nighttime drop in temperature is natural and can be accomplished by turning off all overhead heating devices, and leaving an under tank heater (UTH) on 24 hours a day.

## **Lighting**

- UVB lighting and heat are essential for Bearded Dragons to process calcium in captivity.
- Without UVB lighting Bearded Dragons will develop serious health problems such as Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD).
- UVB Lighting should be left on for 10-12 hours per day and turned off at night.

## **Substrate**

- Bearded Dragons live in arid, sandy places in the wild and will do well on a variety of sand-type substrates in captivity, but sand can cause impaction problems so paper towels or ceramic tiles can also be a great substitute substrate as well.
- Hatchling Bearded Dragons will do best on Cage Carpet or Paper Towels
- Clay Burrowing Substrate will allow you to create a naturalistic terrarium complete with burrows and tunnels for your animals.

## **Nutrition**

- Foods should be dusted with calcium powder with d3 often. This is to ensure that their getting plenty of calcium in their diet to prevent future bone issues like MBD.
- Bearded Dragons are omnivorous reptiles that change their diet throughout their lives.
- Juveniles will need to be fed pinhead to small size crickets daily along with other small insects such as mealworms.
- Juveniles will also need to be fed collard or dandelion greens, romaine lettuce, and other veggies 1-2 times per week.
- Adults will need to be fed collard or dandelion greens, romaine lettuce, and other veggies daily along with occasional fruit (grapes, banana, and strawberry) in small proportions.

- Adults will also need to be fed large crickets 1-2 times per week.
- Always remove uneaten food after each feeding.