The average couch is about 86"W, the minimum size enclosure for one adult Bearded Dragon is 36"W.
Bearded Dragon

In the Wild

Distribution
• In general, bearded dragons are found throughout all but portions of northern Australia. Inland bearded dragons are found in central and southern Australia.

Habitat
• Wide variety of habitats including arid and subtropical forest, savanna, scrubland, and deserts

Habits
• May climb high in trees • Diurnal • Basks on rocks and develops territories and hierarchies

Diet
• Wide variety of invertebrates, especially termites, occasionally small vertebrates, small lizards, snakes, and young rodents (61%)
• Leaves and leafy vegetables rich in n3 FAs (16%), flowers, leaves of flowering plants

Captive Care

Housing
• 30” X 24” or equivalent area minimum for adults. Young dragons 10 gallon tank or equivalent area
• Substrate can be newspaper, cypress mulch, orchid bark, reptile carpet, tile, slate, no substrate, avoid cedar chips, gravel or sand!
• Sturdy water dish – water must be available at all times, misting cycle (daily or a few times a week)
• Two hide boxes (warm side, cool side)
• Branches or elevated platform for basking
• Secure outside cage/pen during summer months extremely beneficial to get unfiltered sunlight

Temperature and Lighting
• Ambient cage temperatures in 80's F, with “hot area” of 90 to 120 F. Provide heat gradient
• “Hot area” can be achieved by using radiant heat, heat pad on outside of cage, or both
• Lighting can be dome lamp with incandescent bulbs for heat as well - 12 hr cycle
• UVB lighting necessary, must be unfiltered, bulb within 6 -12” of lizard, bulb changed every 4 – 6 months even if light still works
• Thermometer (temp gun or probe) to measure actual temperature is a necessity
• Adjustable temperature heat pads, thermostat and/or rheostat for any heat source is beneficial

Diet
• Omnivorous (carnivorous 60 – 80% of diet, herbivorous rest of diet), pelleted diets, feed daily*
• Variety of insects: crickets, dubia roaches, mealworms, superworms, silkworms, hornworms, wax worms, pinky mice, whole prey cased links (with fruit and vegetable option)
• Dark leafy greens romaine, collared, mustard, dandelion, escarole, endive, alfalfa, squash, bell peppers, prickly pear cactus leaves, hibiscus, pumpkin, flowers
• Avoid vegetables high in oxalates (spinach, broccoli, carrots, etc.)
• Supplemental vitamins and minerals necessary (calcium/phosphorus ratio), gutload insects

Special Notes
• Several diseases, mostly related to improper nutrition. Metabolic Bone Disease most common
• Best kept singly, especially males
• Widely bred in captivity; many different captive produced color morphs known; watch for discoloration from colored sand

For more information, visit: www.mnherpsoc.org