

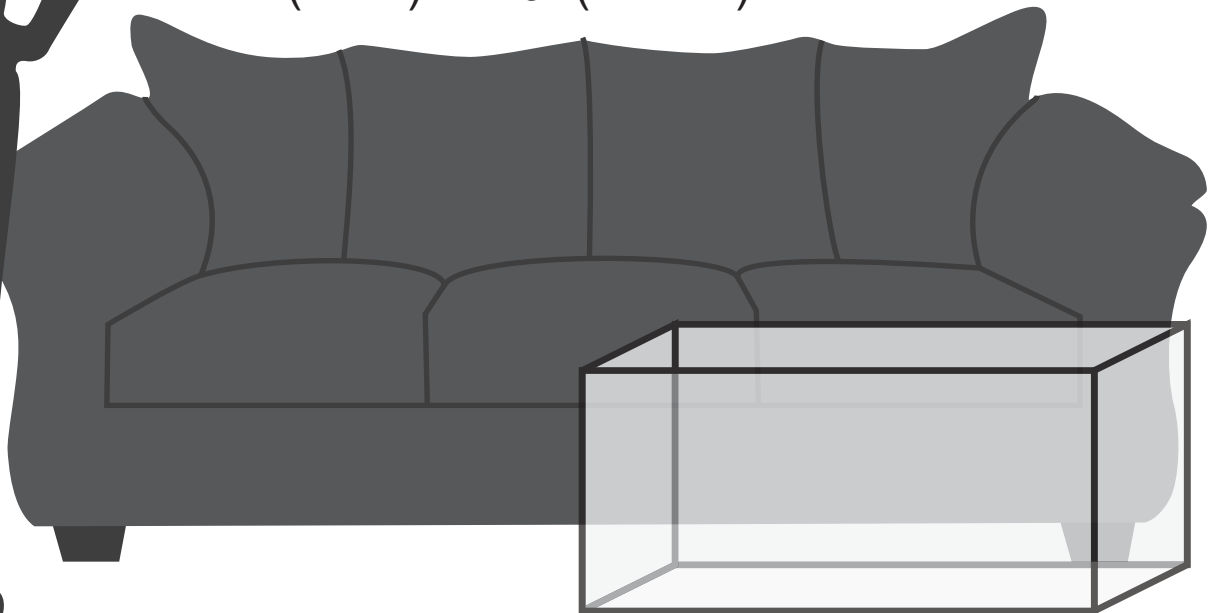
Bearded Dragon

aka Inland or Central Bearded Dragon - Scientific Name: *Pogona vitticeps*

- Lifespan Roughly 5–10 years; record ~14 years
- Diet Omnivorous (carnivorous 60 – 80% of diet, herbivorous rest of diet), pelleted diets, feed daily (see reverse for more information)
- Lighting Can be dome lamp with incandescent bulbs for heat as well - 12 hr cycle. UVB lighting necessary,
- Temps Ambient cage temperatures in 80's F, with "hot area" of 90 to 120 F. Provide heat gradient
- Substrate Newspaper, cypress mulch, orchid bark, reptile carpet, tile, slate, no substrate avoid cedar chips, gravel or sand



The average human male is about 6' tall, adult Bearded Dragons are about 24"(male) or 20" (female)



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

For more information, visit: www.mnherpsoc.org



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
- Displays dominance head bobbing (males) and submissive arm waving (females)

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

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