

Bearded Dragon (Pogona Vitticeps)

General Information

These fantastic animals, full of character, hail from Australia where they live in the semi-desert regions and woodlands. They are excellent climbers and spend a great deal of their time in trees and bushes.

Brief overview of needs

Bearded Dragons grow to around 18 - 24in, which is a nice manageable size, but yet they do require generous space because males can be very territorial. Overcrowding these animals can cause stress, and this in turn can lead to them becoming



aggressive. Fighting between them, especially in enclosed areas will certainly result in injuries. Make certain that the enclosure is as big as you can afford and manage, both horizontally and vertically in order to give them enough room in all directions. Providing the animal with a

tall enclosure will allow enough room for a strong branch so the lizard has somewhere to climb. The enclosure must also be sturdy enough so that the top can support a full-spectrum / UV light. You must make certain that the light actually is **full** spectrum and **not** simply **wide** spectrum. The animal must have UVB, as this is required for calcium metabolism. As always the accommodation must have a water bowl heavy enough not to be knocked over but low enough that the lizard can see into it.

A good healthy diet for the Bearded Dragon is a matter of giving the animal a varied feeding routine. Crickets, cockroaches, mealworms, wax worms and also pinkies. In addition, vegetables such as green beans and carrots, plus fruits including strawberries, raspberries and mango can also be offered.



Following a wide-ranging feeding regimen such as this, will assure that your lizard will have a balanced and nutritious diet and therefore stand the best chance of living a long happy life.

Finally

Regular handling is needed for the animal to get used to being picked up and moved. Bearded Dragons are quite trusting and might not grip on to you as others do. Don't hold on too tightly, let them rest in your hand and curl your fingers over the back of the lizard. Bearded Dragons are curious animals, so provided that you keep it in a safe and controlled environment, it is a good idea to let it explore and stretch its legs. If you want a lizard to start your hobby, or as a one-off 'pet', then the Bearded Dragon is probably the one for you.