

Shopping list– The Basics

- ☐ Appropriately size habitat (40 gal. or larger for adult size) or Starter kit
- ☐ Screen top
- ☐ Substrate
- ☐ Hiding cave
- ☐ Spray bottle for misting
- ☐ Reptile cage thermometer
- ☐ Food & water dishes
- ☐ Live crickets, mealworms or waxworms
- ☐ Cricket keeper with water gel and calcium dust
- ☐ Bearded dragon food
- ☐ Appropriate fresh veggies
- ☐ Daytime UVA/UVB bulb & fixture
- ☐ Basking spot lamp and fixture
- ☐ Ceramic heat emitter & fixture
- ☐ Spray bottle for misting
- ☐ Cage cleaner

Habitat

Housing needs to be well ventilated. The appropriately size habitat should be a 40 gal. or larger.

Include a **basking area** close to the heat source. Also add a wood or rock hiding place in the cool area of the habitat.

Humidity level needs to be kept between 20-30%. A hydrometer will help you keep the desired level.

Temperature for bearded dragons:

- Daytime: 75-85 °F
- Basking Spot: 100-120 °F
- Night: 65-75 °F
- Place a thermometer at each end of the habitat to monitor.

Use a daytime UVA/UVB for approximately 8-12 hours per day to help the bearded dragon produce calcium.

Reptile carpet or newspaper can be used with juveniles less than 6" and for 6" + use a layer of calcium sand. *Clean out waste weekly and change substrate monthly.*

Get to know your Dragon

- **Average adult size:**
up to 24" long
- **Average life span:**
3 to 10 years with proper care
- **Diet:**
Omnivores. This means that they eat mostly live insects and also some vegetables.
- **Age group:**
Great for ages 10 and up
- **Habitat:**
Desert

Nutrition

Crickets & mealworms can be fed to your bearded dragon. Make sure to dust and feed the insects with a special supplements so your bearded dragon can receive extra nutrients. Offer only the amount they can consume in one day.

Do not leave any insects in habitat over night.

The amount for feeding **veggies** for a juvenile's diet should be 25% while adult are around 50%. Choose kale, collard, mustard greens, romaine lettuce, zucchini and shredded carrots. Bearded dragons will drink water from a shallow dish and also lick moisture from their skin. Make sure to mist your bearded dragon every other day.

Health

Signs of a healthy bearded dragon:

- Clear, alert eyes
- Sheds regularly during growth
- Muscular tail
- Eats and drinks normally
- Breathes easily
- Well-formed droppings every 2 days

Warning signs to watch for:

- Runny droppings or red streaks in droppings for more than two days.
- Eating or drinking less or weight loss
- Swollen joints
- Shedding problems or discolored skin

Experience Level: beginner

Bearded Dragon

care guide



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Our mission is to promote a compassionate and caring environment for animals and our employees. Our current staff are dedicated pet lovers and join us in fulfilling our mission of caring for happy, healthy pets.

Always supervise children when they are interacting with your bearded dragon.

Give your pet 3 to 4 days to adjust to his new surroundings, then try holding him for short amounts of time. Take care to never handle him by the tail– it could break off.

This care guide contains only general information and tips for proper care. Speak with a Pet Depot sales associate or veterinarian with questions concerning your pet's health.

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