

How To Take Great Care Of Your Pet Iguana!

HOW TO TAKE GREAT CARE OF YOUR **PET IGUANA**

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Iguana Care Like The Pro's

Even before you consider purchasing an iguana, you must consider its needs for a proper home. Since the iguana's health is dependant on the actual environment that he lives in, it is essential that this part of the process happen first, before anything else.

Iguana's use their homes for more than just shelter. It is imperative that his home provides the necessary protection but also the right heat for his well being. Unlike the dog or other mammals, iguanas must have a well maintained climate in order to stay healthy.

This is due to the iguana's need for the wavelengths of the light within its home. They will use these wavelengths to aid in their metabolism as well as in their body chemistry.

What Was Home Like?

If you consider where the iguana is from, you can see what his needs will be in the climate that you create for him. The extreme temperatures of that environment were also fairly humid. This combination is what his body is conditioned for and therefore must be replaced in the shelter you'll provide for him if he is to survive and be as healthy as he can be.

Without an environment that is conditioned for the right temperature and humidity, your iguana will become ill, it will suffer and it may even die because of this one simple factor.

What does he need, then? There are several key pieces of information to consider. We'll break them down for you right here.

Size

Do you need lots of room? The iguana is so small, how can they even imagine needing so much room? No matter what you thought about his size or the room he needed, this is an important consideration.

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First, they aren't small. In many cases, an iguana will grow up to six feet in length. That's a lot of iguana for you to provide shelter for. There is one misconception out there about this, though. Many think that if they limit the room that they provide to their iguana that they will be safely protecting it from getting extremely large. This is not true. He will continue to grow.

Iguanas start growing at a faster rate then they will down the road. But, he will grow his entire life. Within your first year of owning him, your iguana will likely grow out of the 55 gallon aquarium that you bought it. For this consideration alone you should carefully decide on whether this is the right pet for you. Space is necessary for the animal.

Planning A Comfortable Habitat For Your Iguana

The habitat that you create for your iguana should be carefully designed and built to provide your pet with a healthy living environment. If you do not provide a high level of attention to this part of the process, you can't provide the proper care for your pet that he or she deserves and needs.

One thing that can't be stressed enough is the need to educate yourself before purchasing your habitat for your iguana. Since this is so important of a decision, you don't want to make costly mistakes. The fact is that most people purchase a habitat only to determine that they should have purchased something else. The best lesson to learn, then, is to keep learning!

Buying Or Building?

You can build your habitat. There is no doubt that this is a great way to go. Or, you can buy a pre-made habitat for your pet. Take that one step further and you can have someone else make a habitat for you and then buy it from them. In any case, what you have to determine is the correct way to build or buy one.

The largest drawback of purchasing your own, pre-made habitat is cost. They are by far expensive homes to purchase for your pet. Sometimes, they are well designed to provide for most of the iguana's needs. But, most of the time, they aren't. In fact, most of what you will find in your local pet store is far too small for your iguana. Sure, it's a great habitat until they grow to their full adult size!

There are a number of great locations online that can help you to design your own custom made iguana habitat. Purchasing one is not a bad idea, but it will have to be done with a full understanding of what you need that habitat to provide for your pet. Don't underestimate the size of your iguana!

Heating And Lighting For Your Iguana

Now, its time to think about the heating and lighting within your iguana's habitat. Even if you purchase a pre made habitat, you'll still need to find ways to keep him warm enough and to keep him getting the necessary light he needs.

Heating

The heating in your iguana's habitat is quite important to the well being of your iguana. There are many considerations to think about here, though. The good news is that this chapter will tell you all you need to know about the heat sources and needs of your iguana.

Why They Need Heat

The first consideration that you have is just why the iguana needs heat and what that level is. We've already mentioned that providing heat to your iguana is required to maintain its health.

Within your habitat, you'll need to provide a location that can provide basking heat to your iguana. Generally, this area should be able to get to the middle 90's in temperature. (All temperatures in this e-book are listed in Fahrenheit.) The rest of the air within the habitat should be maintained no less than 75 degrees, but better if it is closer to 80. The final need is to offer a range of temperatures within the habitat to allow him to move around as he feels comfortable.

Now, to accomplish this, there are several things you should and shouldn't do.

First, purchase several attachment thermometers. Place these in various area of the habitat so that they can be easily read by you from outside the enclosure.

Maintaining The Habits Humidity

Now that you have your habitat built and set up with the right amounts of heat and light, the next part of the three part equation for your iguana is that of humidity.

Humidity is the amount of moisture that is in the air. Since iguanas come from areas that are generally very high in humidity all the time, you'll need to mimic that here in your habitat. But, how in the world do you create the right amount of humidity?

The right level of humidity for your iguana will be between 65 percent and 75 percent, which are fairly humid conditions. There are several ways for you to get this high of a humidity level within your habitat.

First, there are the simple methods to doing this. You can just spray the habitat down with water throughout the day. Don't spray less than an hour before the lights go out for the night though. You can also place large containers of water in the habitat, which will help to make for the right amount of humidity within the habitat, too.

In the later chapters, you'll learn about how you need to bath and mist your iguana, but for now, realize that is a good way to gain the benefits of added moisture, too.

If you built your iguana's habitat correctly, the heat and humidity levels will remain high enough with these methods as you'll have a pretty decent way of keeping it in (Plexiglas is a great option for this.) But, it may not be enough.

What You Need To Go Into Your Iguanas Habitat

You've designed an amazing habitat, but there are still a few things you'll need to take into consideration beyond just the construction and the environmental issues.

What will you put into your habitat? You should pay some attention to the details of this area of your habitat. We well provided for iguana that has all he needs in a clean and organized habitat

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is a long living, healthy and happy pet. Now, here are several things that you'll build or add to your habitat.

Flooring Covering

Now, when it comes to your habitat's flooring, take this consideration closely. You want to have something that is easy to replace or at least to clean. But, you don't want to have anything that your iguana can pick up with his tongue or even worse get wrapped around his toes.

You'll find many materials available in the pet stores but don't waste your time on them. Instead consider other easier to afford materials. Here are some options you have.

Floors of:

- Newspaper, ensure that it does not have any type of toxic ink on it.
- Paper towels work just fine, too.
- Plain papers without any type of toxins in them.
- Indoor/outdoor carpeting.

The carpeting is a great choice but if you purchase it, make sure it has nothing that can get caught on your iguana's toes. You'll want to wrap it around the edges and tape them underneath to keep them from being torn up or getting caught on his tongue.

Facts About The Desert Iguana

Have you ever gone to the desert? If so, you have probably spotted a very common animal - the desert iguana. Those who live in that area claim they have seen those iguanas in their yards, hiding from people behind large rocks.

Iguanas love to eat flowers and the leaves of many bushes. The iguana will change its color from gray an almost white hue. This is usually done from the early morning hours because temperatures are lower to midday when the temperatures are much higher. Iguanas do this to avoid getting too hot.

Where to locate Desert Iguana

This type of iguana thrives in the Southwest and Western United states and also Mexico. They include the states of: Utah (southwest corner), Nevada (southern pars), Baja, California, Arizona (southern central parts), Mexico (northwest corner) and lastly the California mainly the areas of the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts. They have also been spotted in some of the gulf islands of the California.

The desert iguana, known by its scientific name dispsosaurus dorsalis, loves the sandy, arid habitats that are found in the desert. Creosote bushes and rocks are used by these iguanas for shelter. They also may use the burrow holes of kangaroo rats that have been abandoned to find peace. In its southern habitats, the iguanas can be seen in the deciduous forest and subtropical places.

What the Desert Iguana looks like

This iguana grows between ten and sixteen inches long. Its body will be round and large and its tail will grow long. The iguana's head will become brown in color while some parts of it have a reddish brown hue to it. The neck and trunk of the body have tan and grayish spots to them while the tail has some white or even grayish spots.

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When the weather gets really hot, the iguana seeks bushes to get cooler. However, despite the fact that temperature reach 115 degrees or higher, the iguana is still active.

What do Iguanas eat?

The refuge from heat and would be predators is also their food. This makes the iguana vegetarians. Classified as herbivores, they eat fruits, buds and leaves of the desert perennial and the annual plants. It is much fond for the yellow flowers that bloom on the creosote bush. They will also eat insects and lizard feces. These iguanas are not endangered despite the predators they have.

Iguana movements

When people spot these reptiles crossing the road they often cross at a very quick pace which means that move swiftly at other times as well. How? Their back legs are very powerful that it allows them a movement of such. Their predators are: foxes, birds of prey, weasels, rats, snakes and of course human beings. Unfortunately, the desert iguana's eggs are often bothered and then devoured by these animals.

Breeding Season of the Desert Iguana

The iguana will begin to make its presence known by the middle of March. This is when it comes out of its long hibernation period. When does the mating season occur? It actually happens between the months of April and May. During the May and June months, it is expected that the desert iguana will lay anywhere between two to ten eggs that is supposed to hatch during the latter half of July until the month of August. During the breeding season, adult iguanas in the desert have a pink color that is at their bellies' side.

The Importance Of Proper Nutrition For Your Iguana

Even if your iguana is overweight, this does not mean it is unhealthy. Yet you know ensure it gets proper diet such as one with a high calcium intake with low phosphorus diet. Be sure your iguana gets as much sunlight as possible.

Should your iguana show signs of NSHP or MBD, it is imperative to bring them to a veterinarian. Nutritional Secondary Hyperparathrodism, which is a metabolic bone disease, is one disease your iguana could get. Keeping an eye of them is vital.

Suppose your iguana's body is bony and fat with jaws appear swollen, this means your iguana is in the critical stages of NHSP or MBD. The disease leads to fragile bones those of which can cause deformities and possible fractures.

Give your iguana a proper diet along with exercise and maintain their weight. A fat iguana should have the needed calcium to keep healthy bones.

How to tell if your iguana is growing healthy

When an iguana is only a hatchling, it will measure to two and half to three inches from its snout to vent. Once the iguana comes from its shell, the iguana will grow three-quarters of an inch a month for nearly three months.

The growth slows down at about three months of age to half an inch but at one year the growth kicks back in and during twelve and fifteen months, it will triple the original length. Over the next few years, the iguana will only grow sparingly. This is the time to give a healthy diet so the iguana won't grow any bigger.

If you are interested in iguanas and like to own one, be sure to read about their environments and diets because it can be the difference between the iguana's life and death.

Interesting Information About The Baby Green Iguana

Do you know anything about green iguanas? Did you know that they use their tails to sense when predators are nearby and if they lose their tails, they will grow back as if it never happened.

One of the most common reptiles found in the South and Central America is the green iguana. Several breeds can be seen in Mexico, Paraguay, Brazil and the Caribbean Islands.

It is not known for sure that the green iguana is an endangered species but it is often thought as one because hunters love this iguana attraction. Hunters love to hunt for female iguanas. Why is this the case? They are considered a delicacy for some people. What is this female iguana delicacy called? How about Bamboo Chicken.

Green Iguana Physical Appearance

How big do the green iguanas get? For starters, these reptiles can grow anywhere from four to six feet long although some have managed to get up to seven feet in length. The tail of the iguana is almost half of their body, taking up more than half that length.

So what does the green iguana look like exactly? Yes, these iguanas are green but they also have a dominant black stripe along their bodies. Their shade of green changes from a bright green to a grayish dull green color, hence the reason behind the name. The iguana's skin is primarily rough because it has pointy scales along its back. They are equipped with long fingers and claws. This makes it easy for them to grasp limbs and climb to get out of the way of danger and predators.

The Green Iguana's Habitat

Baby green iguanas are usually raised in a tropical rainforest setting especially where there is water, such as streams and rivers, in low altitudes. Much of the iguana's beginning years they spend at the top of the forest, about 40 to 50 feet high from the ground.

Baby Green Iguana's Adaptations

Despite the baby iguana's claws and long fingers, there are other wonderful traits and adaptations they have. They have a strong sense of senses especially hearing, sight and smell.

Their defense mechanisms are in their tails. Their tails are sharp and will point high when they sense danger. If a predator is able to get a hold of their tail and remove it, the tail will grow back as if there was no damage whatsoever. Since the baby iguana's skin is considered tough, scratches and cuts are able to be avoided. It is also water-resistant.

Due to its skin pigmentation, the baby green iguana can camouflage itself when it senses predators in the area. However, if this does not work and predators do find them, the babies are able to jump hurriedly from the trees to water. Remember, iguanas do live near water so they are excellent swimmers.

Among their wonderful traits, these baby iguanas are quite strong. Should they fall 40 to 50 feet from a tree to the ground, they can always come away from it unharmed.

The male iguana has what is called dewlap on the skin. What is a dewlap? It is a special flap used to attract female green iguanas. It can also be used to intimidate the predators would love to attack them. The dewlaps help the iguanas appear as if they are much bigger than they really are.

The green iguanas can keep fat under their necks and jaws for some time when times are rough and there is not much food to get.

A Society That Cares: The Green Iguana Society

Have you wondered what it would be like to raise an iguana? Do you know what it takes to take care of them? Do you know how many species of the Iguana family there are? What about the green iguana? What do you know about it?

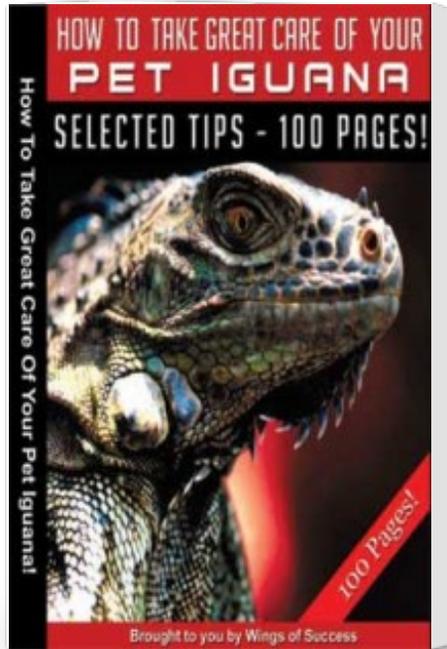
Listed below are seven things you may not have known about the green iguana.

- These are called common iguanas
- Many people would like to have one as a pet because they are so common.
- Calling them a green iguana can often times be a mistake because they can be a brown color too.
- Iguanas are not carnivores but rather herbivores. This means they eat fruits and vegetables such as tree leaves and flowers.
- Where can they be found? Green Iguanas can be found in parts of South and Central America, some Pacific Islands including Guam and the state of Florida in the United States.
- An iguana that is living in captivity can live up to and even more than 20 years. This happens only if the iguana has been taken very good care of. So far, the oldest iguana living is 29 years old.
- What is sad is the green iguana is renowned as a threatened species because the habitat it lives in is slowly disappearing.

There's plenty that someone studying iguanas will learn besides the few seen here. Because of this knowledge, three individuals created an organization using online volunteers to give correct data regarding the iguana along with the ones above.

The organization is called the Green Iguana Society established in 1999.

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