

Habitat Needs

Housing

- Baby bearded dragon can be housed in a 10 - 20 gallon terrarium for a few months. Because of their rapid growth, you will want to upgrade to at least a 40 gallon breeder terrarium. 75 or 90 gallons would be best for your adult bearded dragon. They prefer their terrarium to be decorated in an arid desert style, and you will want to offer them plenty of décor for climbing.

Heat & Lighting

- It is very important you provide your bearded dragon with proper heat and lighting. Bearded dragons require full spectrum UV lighting. Without this, your bearded dragon cannot grow properly, or metabolize vitamin D3 correctly. Your local pet store will be able to help you pick out the proper UV light for your bearded dragon.
- The size of your cage will determine what wattage your heat light should be. You want the cage to have an overall temperature between 80 - 85 degrees and a basking area of 90 - 100 degrees. Red or black heat lights work great for heat because you can leave them on all the time. As for the daytime basking area, you will want to use a white spot light. Make sure the light fixture you are using for your heat light is rated for the wattage of the bulb. Bearded dragons should be provided daylight consisting of the full spectrum UV lighting and the daytime basking area for about 12 hours per day.

Substrate/Bedding

- There are many different types of reptile bedding out there. So which ones are good for bearded dragons? For babies, it is best to keep them on reptile carpet until they are at least 6" long. They tend to eat their bedding when they are so small. Once they have gotten bigger, you can switch them over to digestible calcium sand, crushed walnut shell, or alfalfa pellets.

Health

- When picking out your bearded dragon, make sure it is active and alert when you pick it up. If it is skinny and lethargic it could be sick. Always take your bearded dragon to the vet for a check-up, they can carry worms and parasites that show no signs of illness but may still need to be treated. Always wash your hands after handling any pet reptile.

Nutrition

Staple Diet

- Bearded dragons are omnivores meaning they eat both animal matter and vegetables. When it's time to feed, offer babies pinhead to small size crickets. Most babies will eat around 12 - 24 crickets every day for the first year of their life. After that, you can cut down the cricket feedings to 3 - 4 times a week. You can also introduce other insects like mealworms and waxworms when they are around 4 - 6 months old. Offer this more as a treat. Adult bearded dragons can eat larger insects and small rodents such as kingworms and pinky mice.



- Vegetables are also very important to your bearded dragon. They should make up about 20% of their diet as a baby. Offer them dark leafy greens such as romaine lettuce, kale, mustard greens, collard greens, parsley, squash, carrots, bell peppers, strawberries and bananas. Make sure you chop the vegetables into very small pieces for babies.
- Vitamins and Calcium are supplements you will need to add to your bearded dragon's food. As the bearded dragon gets older, the vegetables should become a larger part of their diet, about 50-60%.
- Vitamins and Calcium are supplements that are crucial to your bearded dragons health. For baby bearded dragons, dust the crickets with calcium every day and dust the crickets with vitamins 3 times a week. For adults, dust the crickets 2 - 3 times a week with calcium and vitamins.

Water

- Always provide your breaded dragon with fresh water. Give babies a shallow water dish.

Extra Information

- Scientific Name: *Pogona vitticeps*
- Native to: Australia
- Temperament: Docile
- Average size: 16" - 20"
- Life Expectancy: 7 - 10 years
- Climate: Desert
- Humidity: Low

