



BASIC IGUANA CARE SHEET

Congratulations on your new iguana pet! This care sheet is intended to get you off on the right foot with your new pet, but should in no way be your only resource. A list of books, websites, etc. is at the end of this sheet, and I encourage you to look into as many sources as possible.

GETTING STARTED: Here is a list of equipment you will need to purchase in order to take proper care of your iguana. Keep in mind, this is just the bare minimum. There will be plenty of other things you will eventually want, either to enhance your pet's life or your own.

A secure enclosure (Size will be discussed in the housing segment, but basically a safe house that's the right size)

Basking bulb with a hooded light fixture (a light that shines on the spot where they hang out to provide heat)

UVB light (ZooMed Iguanalight 5.0) with fluorescent fixture

Heat source (Ceramic heat emitter (not for beginners), human heating pad, undertank heater, etc.)

Humidity and temperature gauges

Substrate (the stuff on the floor) (Newspaper, old towels, Astroturf, indoor/outdoor carpet, etc.) **DO NOT USE:** wood chips, bark, sand, gravel, rabbit pellets, cat litter, or any other substrate material that could be ingested.

Food and water dishes. The water dish should be large enough for your iguana to soak his whole body in, but not large enough to drown in. The food dish can be something as simple as a plate.

Branches (cleaned and treated) or other things to climb on (we use sections of PVC pipe covered with elastic ace bandages.)

First aid kit including Betadine, Neosporin, bandaging supplies, and styptic pencil.



Cage is 7'h x 5'w x 3'd

BASIC SETUP: Keep in mind that your iguana will grow to be 4'-6' in a relatively short period of time. Investing in a larger cage now will save you the expense of replacing a too-small cage later. You will need to give your iguana 12-14 hours of daylight, followed by 10-12 hours of full dark. Daytime temperatures should range from 95-98° F in the basking spot, to 80° F degrees in the cool spot. Humidity should be at least 60%, preferably closer to 80-90%. UVB light is essential for your iguana to metabolize calcium, so you will need to provide a UVB bulb. A hide box that provides privacy is also important, at least until your pet feels more secure in his new home. Branches and vines for climbing will afford exercise for your pet, as well as benefit their psychological health.



BASIC DIET: Below is a good, basic salad recipe. Keep in mind that your iguana will flourish best when fed a wide variety of vegetables and greens. Also, note that all food must be chopped or shredded into fairly small pieces, as iguanas do not chew their food.

1/2 c. green beans
1/2 c. orange fleshed squash (acorn, butternut, etc.)
1 medium or 2 small parsnips

Add as many vegetables, fruits, and greens from the following list as possible, keeping in mind the more variety, the better (The vegetables marked with an * are for occasional use only):

VEGETABLES (30-40% of diet)

Zucchini
Yellow squash
Peas
Bell peppers
Okra
Snow peas
Broccoli*
Brussels sprouts*
Sweet potato
Carrots*

GREENS (30-45% of diet)

Collard greens
Mustard greens
Turnip greens
Dandelion greens
Cilantro
Bok choy*
Carrot tops*

FRUIT (10-15% of diet)

Mango
Papaya
Apple
Melon
Peach
Figs (fresh or dried)

This is just a basic list. As you do your own research, you will find many other food options. Keep in mind, iguanas are herbivores **EXCLUSIVELY**. **NEVER FEED YOUR IGUANA ANIMAL PROTIEN IN ANY FORM!!** To do so will negatively affect your iguana's health and probably shorten his life.



OTHER RESOURCES:

BOOKS

Green Iguana: The Ultimate Owner's Manual by James W. Hatfield III
Iguanias for Dummies by Melissa Kaplan

WEBSITES

Melissa Kaplan's Iguana Site:
www.anapsid.org
The Basking Spot
www.baskingspot.com/iguanas
Colorado Reptile Humane Society
www.corhs.org

OTHER RESOURCES:

Iguana mailing lists: www.onelist.com has several iguana lists for you to join. We suggest joining **Iguanamail**. It has many knowledgeable "Ig-sperts," but still manages to be very newbie friendly.



13941 Elmore Road
Longmont, CO 80504
303-776-2070
www.corhs.org