



# Uromastyx

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## FUN FACT!

There are many types of Uromastyx. Uromastyx are part of the Agamid family that include Bearded Dragons, Frilled Dragons, Agamas etc. Uromastyx are also referred to as Spinytail or Spiny-tailed Agamid/Agama. They are easy to keep and are very tame and stay that way. They average between 11-18" inches except Egyptian Uromastyx that can reach 30 to 36" Uromastyx can live 10 – 15 years with proper care. They are an excellent pet for children and adults who want a lizard they can interact with. These can be found in North Africa, Middle East, and Asia. Uromastyx are on the Cites appendix II. This means they are regulated but not illegal. Some types like the Mali are captive bred.



## General Diet

Uromastyx lizards eat a mix of greens. Collard, dandelion, spring mix, squash, and yams and should be chopped or shredded depending on the size of the lizards mouth. will eat almost anything that moves and/or fits into their mouths.

It is best to avoid cabbage. Almost any type of fruit can be fed in moderation as this can be like candy, although stay light or away from bananas. Commercial diets will work too.



## **Vitamins/Supplements**

Reptiles need to have a vitamin/mineral supplement with calcium and phosphorous. Most commercial foods will have the supplements already added. If not, a supplement should be sprinkled on the adult's food items at every second to third feeding ( 2-3times a week) and more often with very young reptiles. We will be glad to explain how often to feed and give supplements to your new pet.

## **Housing**

Uromastyx grow to a fairly good size, they can reach adult size in 1yr. So an adult individual need to be kept in a 30 breeder tank, but as babies they can start out in a 20 gallon long. A screen should be used on top along with two types of lighting systems. One type of lighting has a reptile fluorescent bulb that gives off full spectrum light including UVA and UVB. The UVB is especially important for these reptiles to get so they can absorb calcium properly.

The second light system is for heat. Reptiles are ectotherms, which means they get their heat from an outside source, unlike humans who can make their own heat. Different areas of the habitat should be at different temperatures, so reptiles can move around to heat up or cool off. Uromastyx are comfortable with a daytime temperature in their tank of 90 to 100 degrees, a basking area at 110-120, and a nighttime temperature of 65-70. Use a daylight heat bulb in a heat lamp during the day to keep the temperature up in their tank. Do not use hot rocks with Uromastyx. Use a very strong basking lamp at one end of the tank that they may lay under to warm themselves up during the day. Turn off the basking lamp at night. And never use a human heat pad for reptiles.

Uromastyx like low humidity in their tank. They do not need a water dish, but if you feel you want to provide one make it a small dish as not to raise the humidity levels. They normally will get plenty of water from the greens fed. Use calcium based sand or sand mats in the bottom of the cage. Uromastyx like to dig so you may find your best bet will be the calcium based sand though some will use millet in the bottom. Having 1 to 2 inch think of calcium based sand gives plenty of opportunity for them to dig. Do not use play sand as this is more likely to get impacted when ingested. As long as they get proper UVB, Vitamins, and heat reduces the chance of impaction if they happen to heat some of the substrate.

## **Sanitation/General Care**

The litter or substrate used on the bottom should be cleaned every month or as often as needed, and this will depend on tank size, the reptile's size, and the number of reptiles in the tank. If using sand this can be sifted 2x or more weekly and sand mats washed 1x or more weekly.



## General Maintenance

Be sure the tank is always at the right temperature. Change the reptile full spectrum light as often as recommended by the manufacturer, usually every six months to a year. Although the bulb may still be working, it will lose its potency over a certain period of time.

## Health Care

Uromastyx are generally very hardy and healthy when kept in the right conditions. They do not require any yearly check ups or vaccines. Like other lizards if not given proper UVB & calcium they can develop metabolic bone disease. Wild caught species may need to be treated by a vet.

## Special Section

Reptiles can carry one disease that can be transmitted to people called salmonellosis. It is always important to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after you have handled your pet or anything in your pet's cage. Keep your pet out of the kitchen area and do not allow very small children to handle any reptiles.

## SUPPLIES CHECKLIST

Cage	Water/Food Dish
Screen Cover	Calcium Sand
Hygrometer	Thermometer x2
Flourescent light with reptile UVB Bulb	Rock or cave
Basking Bulb	Vitamin/mineral Supplement
2 fixtures	Decorations
Branches	
Stand for Lamps	



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