

Clark's Pet Emporium

Bearded Dragon Care Sheet



Species - Bearded Dragon
Color - Hypo-citrus Hybrid

Clark's Pet Emporium has taken pride in sharing quality pets with our community for over 40 years. Now you can give your pet the very best care, from our home to yours, with Clark's Care Sheets.

The Bearded Dragon care sheet will provide you with basic knowledge to begin your new life with a lizard, ranging from diet to reptile husbandry. For further details regarding specific care, please contact Clark's with your questions and concerns.

Is a Bearded Dragon right for you?

Please take a moment to ask yourself the following questions:

- Do you have adequate space to house a properly constructed and secured reptile enclosure?
- Are you prepared to offer your Bearded Dragon the food it will need? Food items will consist of live crickets and/or cockroaches, vegetables, and fruits
- Are you willing to make considerable investment in the special lighting, housing, and heating requirements of your reptile?
- Does your lifestyle support the fact that this pet will be a part of your family for the next 8-15 years?
- Are you prepared to make fundamental changes to your lifestyle to ensure the safety of a reptile amongst other pets, family members, and household dangers?

If you answered "yes!" to ALL of these questions, read through the rest of this care sheet and visit your favorite Clark's location to inquire about adopting a Bearded Dragon.

Shopping Check-List:

- Bearded Dragon book / reading material
- Appropriate sized enclosure, terrarium, or aquarium
- Enclosure substrate / bedding
- Appropriate lighting (basking light and UVB bulb)
- Appropriate size hide (cave, tunnel, bark, or decorations) to make the animal feel less exposed
- Water bowl and bathing container
- Diet - Live crickets and cockroaches, freeze-dried insects, vegetable mix, fruits, and calcium supplements
- Reptile-safe cleaning supplies



*Hatchling
Bearded
Dragon*

Dietary Needs:

- Bearded Dragons' diets change throughout their lives. Juveniles require higher protein food items like insects as a staple with supplemental greens and vegetables.
- A bearded dragon under 1 year of age should be fed 70% insect protein and 30% vegetables. At 1-6 years old, adjust the diet to 50% insects and 50% vegetables. Over 6 years old, feed 30% insects and 70% vegetables.
- Feel free to offer live, canned, or dried crickets and roaches. Offer fattier items like mealworms, wax worms, and pinky mice as a treat. Talk to a Clark's reptile expert about food item size and quantity for your reptile.
- Bearded dragons under 1 year old should be offered insects and/or greens daily. Remember to feed 70% insects as a staple over vegetables and treats.
- Vegetable greens should be offered 2-3 times per week. Any uneaten greens should be removed after 3 hours to prevent any bacteria or mold growth.
- Pellet diet is a nutritionally balanced alternative staple that can be offered

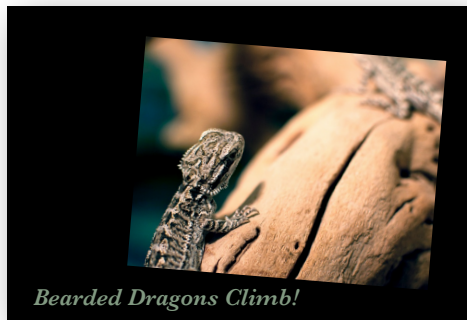
Vegetable Greens Mix:

- The Clark's Mix - Kale, collard greens, mustard greens, carrot, yellow squash, zucchini, apple
- High calcium, vitamin rich greens like collard greens and kale are superior. Dandelion greens, bok choy, green beans, mustard greens, and turnip greens are also good choices.
- Even a healthy green like kale is not balanced if fed exclusively. Ensure at least a variety of 3 vegetables are fed regularly for nutritional balance
- Fruit like apples, bananas, pear, or strawberries are a healthy treat. DO NOT feed iceberg lettuce, broccoli, spinach, celery, avocado, or citrus fruits



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Bearded Dragons Climb!

Housing:

- Juvenile bearded dragons should be housed in a terrarium of at least 20 gallons. Adults require at least a 40 gallon terrarium. As ground dwelling animals, they need a large surface area to roam, so housing multiple lizards will require ample tank space.
- Provide flat, open areas for a bearded dragon to stretch and bask comfortably. Branches can be placed for climbing and allowing closer access to heating. Also place a hiding spot away from heat for privacy and thermoregulation.
- Bearded dragons can be zealous eaters - juveniles can ingest substrate while hunting insects, so use paper towels or reptile carpet in baby enclosures. This substrate is effective for adults if you choose, and it is easy to clean and maintain. Adults can also be housed on calcium sand and aspen chips. Try to use larger chips to avoid ingestion during feedings.

Heating and Lighting:

- Bearded dragons require heat, UVA, and UVB lighting. These are not optional! Without this lighting, their bodies cannot process essential calcium and vitamin d3. Lack of these vitamins leads to metabolic bone disease and is fatal.
- Provide a dual lighting hood containing a basking lamp and UV 10.0 bulb. As an alternative, Clark's sells mercury vapor bulbs that provide ample heat, UVA, and UVB all-in-one.
- Daytime temperatures should be 83-88 degrees F with a basking spot of 100-105 degrees F. Nighttime temperature can safely drop to 70-80 degrees. For bearded dragons under 1 year old, keep temperatures above 76 degrees at night to avoid brumation. This is the slowing of metabolic rates similar to hibernation that these reptiles use as a last resort to avoid death. It is dangerous for young bearded dragons to go into brumation during their critical growing periods.
- Infrared lights or ceramic heat emitters are available to provide nighttime heat in a non-disruptive manner
- Because ambient home temperatures fluctuate, always use an accurate thermometer to determine proper bulb wattage for your tank heating.

Safety Tips:

Bearded dragons, like all reptiles, carry the salmonella bacteria. It has the potential to make people, especially children, very sick! Handle your lizard regularly, but ALWAYS disinfect your hands and surfaces in contact with the reptile afterward!

Do not put rocks or sticks found in your yard directly into your pet's enclosure! You may inadvertently introduce insects, parasites, fungus, bacteria, or toxins into your reptile's habitat! You can boil a decorative natural item for 15 minutes to sterilize it if desired for tank use.

Never place the enclosure in direct sunlight. Glass allows light in, but traps all heat from escaping. This may lead to dangerously high temperatures for your reptile!

Always supervise a reptile outside its enclosure! They can easily slip away in seconds and may never be found! Only take these cold-blooded pets outdoors in weather above 80 degrees!

Cleaning and Maintenance

- Routinely remove soiled substrate and water as necessary. Replace all substrate once per month to avoid harmful bacteria buildup.
- Never use harsh household chemicals in a reptile enclosure. A pet-safe cleaner or 50/50 mix of water and vinegar can safely clean the habitat and loosen water mineral deposits on glass

Let's Have Some Fun:

- Bearded dragons are known for their mellow attitude and can be tamed and trained! Have a space free of hazards and other animals to take your lizard out!
- Soaking up some warm sun can be enjoyable for you and your reptile on a sunny day!
- Feeding can be fun and educational. Try training your dragon to eat from tongs on queue. They may even start to recognize you approaching with treats!



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