



## A Basic Guide to the Care of: **BEARDED DRAGONS**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Bearded Dragons are found in Australia and they are quite social by nature. They are found to live in the desert as well as the savannah. The name 'Bearded' refers to the tiny projections around the chin and throat area, which is also known as inland dragons. Bearded dragons are also known as Inland dragons for their native habitat in Eastern Continental Australia.

Despite their appearance, they quickly become tame, because they are usually obtained as hatchlings. They will hand feed whenever possible. Although the spines look sharp, they are quite soft. The Bearded Dragon is a good choice of lizard for a beginner. They don't require highly specialized conditions or diet and the size is ideal as they're not too big or not too small. Bearded Dragons do well in small groups of 1 male and several females. Dominance in males, form rapidly in captivity.

### **HOUSING**

A single adult pair can be housed in a 75-gallon or larger aquarium, or terrarium. An ideal vivarium size is 60\*24\*18in (150\*60\*45cm).

Lighting and heating bulbs that induce plant growth should be used for planted desert terrarium. Provided the desired thermal gradient by heating only one half of the vivarium. Photo period 14 hours provided full-spectrum (UVB) lighting and basking lamp. Winter Cooling-photo period n10 hours.

### **DIET**

**VEGGIES(FINELY CHOPPED)**- mustard greens, collard greens, beet greens, kale, bok choy (Chinese leaves), thawed mixed vegetables, fancy dark lettuces (NOT ICEBERG), sprouts (bean and alfalfa), green beans, peas (Snow & Other), nasturtium leaves & flowers, dandelion leaves, broccoli, grated squashes, carrots, courgette, peppers and watercress.

**ANIMAL PROTEIN**- grey crickets, giant mealworms, mealworms, wax worms, pinkie mice and roaches.

**FRUITS**- chopped apple and oranges.

**NOTE**- Chop food small and mix well, dust with multi-vitamins and calcium supplements. Leave small pieces of cuttlefish bone on a lid.

### **ON RECIPT OR YOUR BEARDED DRAGONS**

Always ensure that your vivarium is set up at the right temperature before introducing the Bearded Dragon (at least 24hrs before). Offer it both food and water, but don't expect it to feed immediately as it may be stressed from its journey and will need time to acclimatise.

### **RECOMMENDED READING**

Reptiles, Amphibians & Invertebrates - An Identification & Care Guide (BARRON'S)

The Reptile Survival Manual (David Alderton)

Reptile Keeper's Guide - Bearded Dragon (BARRON'S)