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**AVIAN & EXOTIC CLINIC**  
**of the Monterey Peninsula**

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## **BEARDED DRAGONS**

**Origin:** Australia

**Life span:** 4-10years

**Sexual maturity:** 5-16 months

**Temperature range:** 70F-95F

(Background – 80-85F, Basking – 90-95F, Nighttime - 70F)

**Lighting:** Full spectrum bulb (must include both UVA and UVB) – This bulb must be changed every 6 months and be within 12 inches of pet. This light needs to be on for 12 hours a day.

**Heat:** During the day a fluorescent UVA/UVB bulb may be used in conjunction with a ceramic heat emitter or basking lamp – at night red bulbs, ceramic heaters, and/or heating pad on low under one end of the enclosure. No heat rocks!! A dark, flat rock placed under basking light will provide good “belly” heat.

**Diet:** *Juvenile dragons* eat 50% plant matter and 50% animal matter. They should be offered finely chopped dark, leafy greens and vegetables misted lightly with water as well as appropriately sized insects (no larger than the width of the dragons head) twice daily. *Adult dragons* are 80% herbivorous. They should be offered chopped dark, leafy greens and vegetables misted lightly with water daily. Insects such as crickets, butterworms, silkworms, and mealworms should be offered 2-3 times weekly. Occasionally, a pinkie/fuzzy mouse may be offered.

**Vitamin Supplements:** Adult salads can be dusted with a calcium supplement no more than once a week. Any insects offered should be fed with an insect gut-loading diet or complete animal ration such as bird pellets, rodent chow, or dry dog food. For adults, the insects can be dusted with a calcium D3 supplement once weekly. Every other week insects should be dusted with a multivitamin. For juveniles, insects should be dusted with a calcium/vitamin D3 supplement 3-4 times weekly and a multivitamin once weekly.

**Substrate:** Newspaper or paper towels should be changed whenever soiled. The use of sand is discouraged.

**Water:** Clean, fresh water should be available to adult dragons at all times. Use a dish large enough that the dragon can soak in it. Juveniles should be offered water in very shallow containers daily. Spraying or misting the enclosure (not the pets) once daily is a good idea especially for juveniles. A humidity box can also be used. Also dragons can be soaked in a warm water bath 3 times weekly for 15 minutes to encourage drinking, to stimulate defecation, and to facilitate shedding.