

AVIAN AND EXOTIC CLINIC OF MONTEREY

GREEN IGUANAS

ORIGIN: Mexico, Central and South America

Life span: 15-20 plus years

Temperature range: (Basking 80-95 degrees Fahrenheit, Background 75-85 degrees Fahrenheit , Nighttime 70-84 degrees Fahrenheit)

Green iguanas are tropical lizards. They need the same tropical temperatures all year long.

Lighting: Full spectrum bulb (must include UVA and UVB). This bulb should be no more than 10 inches above the pet and replaced every 6 months. The light should be on for 12 hours a day and can penetrate screen but not plastic.

Heat: During the day ceramic heat emitters, incandescent white or clear bulbs can be used from above and /or heating pad on low under one end of the enclosure. No heat rocks should ever be used.

Diet: Green iguanas are specialized vegetarians, eating leaves, blossoms and fruit. 40-45% of your iguana's diet should be leafy greens (collards, dandelions, mustards, and escarole). 40-45% of the diet should be raw vegetables (green beans, snap peas, squash, carrots, sweet potatoes). Fruit in small quantities (bananas, grapes, berries, melon citrus) can also be offered.

Vitamin Supplements: Salads can be dusted with calcium daily.

Substrate: Newspaper or other paper product which should be changed when soiled.

Water: Clean, fresh water should be available at all times. Juveniles should be offered water in shallow containers only. Mistng and soaking in a shallow warm water bath 4-5 times a week for 15 minutes will encourage drinking, stimulate defecation and facilitate shedding.

Housing: Iguanas reach a total length of 5-6 feet. The body itself reaches 22-24 inches and the rest of the length is in the tail. An iguana needs an enclosure 1.5-2 times its total length. An iguana that is 6 feet long needs an enclosure that is at least 9 feet long. An ideal enclosure will have ventilation on side panels and roof and front opening doors for easier cleaning and access to the enclosure. Multiple shelves and limbs for climbing are ideal and allow the iguana to regulate temperature by changing distance from the heat source.