

# Water Dragon



## OVERVIEW



- Ease of Care: Intermediate/Advanced
- Size: On average 3ft (36 inches), with females being smaller at roughly 2ft (24 inches). These sizes can vary.
- Life Span: Upwards of 15-20 years in captivity
- Diet: Omnivore
- Humidity: 80% average during the day – up to 100% overnight
- Temperament: Friendly
- Background Temp: 24°C (75°F).
- HOT Spot: 32°C (89°F)

## TOP TIPS

- ✓ A humidifier will aid hydration at night when all heat and light is turned off and the Water Dragon is sleeping.
- ✓ Do not directly spray your Water Dragon when misting the enclosure, even when shedding.
- ✓ Ensure set up contains branches, vines, and plants for this arboreal species to climb and traverse.
- ✓ Ensure a protective heat cage is placed around the heat bulb and UV source so the Water Dragon cannot harm itself; keep plants and foliage at a safe distance from the heat source.

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

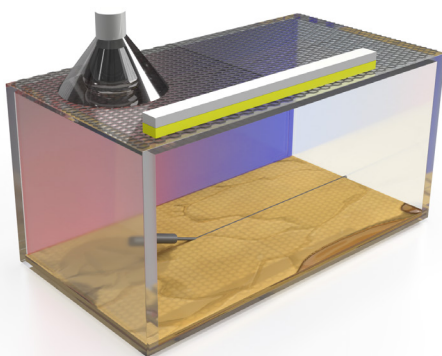


- Housing: Vivarium
- Heating: Basking Spot/Flood (12 hours on/off cycle)
- Lighting: UV Tube (12 hours on/off cycle)
- Substrate: Arcadia EarthMix (RARE10) or HabiStat Jungle Bio (HSJB10)
- Water: Humidifier / Hand sprayer / Water container

## ENVIRONMENT



### Terrestrial Terrarium Setup



### Heating

As Water Dragons are ectothermic all their heating requirements must come from an external source.

## HOUSING



### Young/Juvenile Water Dragons:

- Monkfield Vivarium - 24x18x36" - (DVF2436BL)
- HabiStat Terrarium - 60x45x90" - (HGT6090)

### Adult:

Large enclosure at least 6ft in length and height and 2-3 ft wide

### Heating a Terrarium

Use a nice bright white incandescent light/heat bulb to replicate the sun in the setup, controlled with a HabiStat Dimming Thermostat (HTDW). The bulb would need to be placed on the mesh of the Terrarium using a Reflector light dome with ceramic holder such as the Arcadia Reflector Clamp Lamp (RARM160).

A thermostat is designed to regulate the temperatures within the setup by placing the thermostat probe in a suitable location. The power to the bulb will reduce (dim) once the set temperature is achieved within the setup to prevent the overheating.

The bulb will then return to full power once the temperature has stabilised and it's safe to do so.

To safely regulate the temperatures, place the thermostat probe as close to the main basking area as possible where the Water Dragon cannot lie on it or touch it as this would affect the readings.

### **Heating a Vivarium**

Use a nice bright white incandescent light/heat bulb to replicate the sun in the setup, controlled with a HabiStat Dimming Thermostat (HTDW).

Mount the heat bulb using a ceramic bulb holder to the roof of the vivarium. Use a heater guard or cage over the bulb to protect the Water Dragon from making contact and causing injury.

To safely regulate the temperatures, place the thermostat probe as close to the main basking area as possible where the Water Dragon cannot lie on it or touch it as this would affect the readings.

### **Temperature and Monitoring**

As a guide, a cool-end (bottom) temperature of 24°C (75°F) gives the Water Dragon a safe cool area to retreat if needed.

The daytime Basking-zone/Hot-spot (top) should be around 29-32°C (84-89°F).

Night-time temperatures should be 20-22°C (68-71.6°F) throughout, with all light and heat being turned off.

Makes sure temperatures are checked regularly to ensure there are no extreme fluctuations.

Using a digital probed thermometer in the basking and cool end will help monitor these temperatures where the Water Dragon is not able to lie on the probe (as this would affect the readings).

For humidity, 80% throughout the day can be achieved by regular spraying on the enclosure. In conjunction with the use of real plants, branches, and a soil-based substrate.

The 100%-night humidity can be achieved via the use of a humidifier (HDH01) running after the lights are off for an hour.

Using a hygrometer (HDH) will aid your ability to monitor the enclosure humidity.

### **Lighting**

UV Lighting is required for the wellbeing of the Water Dragon; the Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit 12% UV (RARTP39R) is the perfect choice.

For a Vivarium, having the UV mounted overhead is the best option with the desired UV tube being based on the correct safe distance (as per the UV manufacturer recommendations) to the closest point of the Water Dragon.

Using an Arcadia Lamp Guard Pro (RALGP4) will also protect the UV for inquisitive Water Dragons.

### **Substrates and Decoration**

Personal choice will dictate how to decorate the surface of your Terrarium/vivarium. The following is just a guide:

HabiStat Jungle Bio (HSJB10) or Arcadia EarthMix (RARE10) are great with aiding humidity.

For decoration, the use of branches, vines, and plants are a must for this arboreal species.

## DIET & WATER



As omnivores, a varied insect diet is ideal with greens, vegetables and fruit forming around 10% of their diet.

Young/juvenile Water Dragons should be eating daily, fed on suitable sized insect feeders for around 5 minutes.

Adults should be fed 2 or 3 times a week with just a few suitably sized insects each time.

For hydration, regular spraying of the enclosure 1 or 2 times daily will give the Water Dragon a chance to take in water from the surrounding foliage.

Recent research has discovered that many species hydrate by breathing in the humid and foggy air conditions while sleeping overnight in their natural environment. This can be replicated in captivity overnight via the use of the HabiStat Humidifier (HDH01) to reach the recommended 100% humidity peak at some point during the night.

Using a hygrometer will aid keeping the humidity in check.

## SUPPLEMENTATION



Water Dragons do require additional supplementation within their diet to aid overall health.

We recommend using a Calcium, magnesium, and multivitamin mix regime as needed.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Water Dragons will shed their skin according to their age.

- Water Dragons under 6 months old will shed almost weekly. This will become less frequent as they age, with adults shedding only a few times a year. During this process they can be more temperamental, often going off food or become more defensive.
- Female Water Dragons will lay eggs (even if no male contact has occurred). This process can start as early as 3 years old. It is vital a lay-bin is provided, filled with a soil-based substrate like HabiStat Jungle Bio (HSJB10) or Arcadia EarthMix (RARE10) is used – this needs to be several inches deep and at least twice the length of the Water Dragon in length.

Keep this soil damp so they can dig the burrow/hole needed in order to lay. Once finished, they will cover the eggs over, and go back to basking. It would be a good time to offer a couple of calcium supplement dusted soft-bodied feeders and extra hydration options for the next few days to aid recovery.

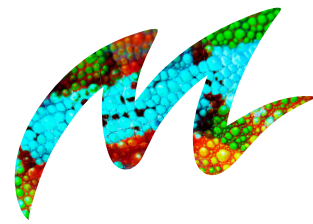
# HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Water Dragon healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	Refresh water container Daily Spraying	Spot clean	Check branches and plants for breakage and stability
Weekly	Disinfect water dripper	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build up	Wipe down glass / mesh / walls with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Full or partial substrate change	Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling or feeding your Water Dragon, their food, enclosure and any other equipment.



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