

Charm City Glam Chams - Bearded Dragon Care Sheet

Habitat

For adults we use the Exo Terra Natural Terrarium, Large/Wide (PT 2613) (36" x 18" x 18"). For juveniles you can start with a 20 gallon terrarium or aquarium with a mesh top. You will eventually need the larger habitat (40 or 50 gallon) once your dragon reaches 6-8 months of age.

On the floor of the habitat, use paper towels, butcher's paper or craft paper. Tile is also an acceptable flooring.

PLEASE DO NOT USE SAND OR ANY OTHER LOOSE SUBSTRATE FOR HABITAT FLOORING. LOOSE SUBSTRATE CAN CAUSE IRRITATION TO THE DRAGON'S EYES, AND IF INGESTED, IT CAN CAUSE DIGESTION PROBLEMS.

THE USE OF REPTILE CARPET SHOULD ALSO BE AVOIDED, AS THE MATERIAL CAN TRAP BACTERIA FROM THE DRAGON'S WASTE.

Lighting & Heat

Use a Reptisun T5 HO 10.0 UVB linear bulb plus a separate heat/basking lamp of 50-75 watts, depending on the warmth of your home and the size of the habitat. The basking spot should be set up at one end of the habitat. The basking spot temperature should be 115 to 120 degrees for hatchlings up to six months of age, 110 to 115 degrees for dragons aged six months to one year, and 100 to 110 degrees for dragons that are one year and older. The cooler side of the habitat should be around 80 degrees during the day.

For use with a 36" long terrarium, we prefer the Carolina Custom Cages "Reptile T5HO 22" Fixture & Reflector with Basking Lighting Assembly" which consists of a T5 HO fluorescent fixture and halogen basking light fixture in an all-in-one assembly that can be easily mounted inside the habitat under the top screen for greatest effectiveness. You can purchase these fixtures on Amazon.com for about \$70 (the T5 HO 10.0 and halogen basking bulbs are sold separately).

Alternatively, you can use the 24" Zoo Med ReptiSun T5 HO Terrarium Hood (LF-71) and a separate dome fixture with a 50 or 75 watt incandescent basking lamp. The Zoo Med Terrarium Hood comes with a 5.0 UVB bulb, so you will need to buy a 10.0 UVB T5 HO bulb for your dragon.

Vegetables

Dragons of all ages must have fresh greens and vegetables every day. Chop all greens and vegetables so that individual pieces are no bigger than the space between the dragon's eyes.

Please refer to the color-coded nutrition/feeding guide produced by Carolina Designer Dragons for a list of acceptable foods and the frequency with which they may be provided to your dragon.

Feeders

Twice daily, babies up to 6 months of age can be fed all the protein (crickets, dubia, etc.) they can consume in 15 minutes.

For dragons over six months of age, one protein feeding per day is sufficient.

Crickets and Dubia roaches: Never feed crickets or roaches that are longer than the space between your dragon's eyes.

Superworms: Dragons starting at 12" long can have 5 for the first day. If there are no issues you can raise the number by 1 a day until you reach the limit of 10 per day. Portions are limited due to the higher fat content of these feeders.

Phoenix worms (for dragons under 12") and hornworms (for dragons over 12") are soft and full of protein and calcium. They are great diet supplements for dragons and can be used daily in addition to their protein staples (crickets and roaches). Up to 10 Phoenix worms and 1 or 2 hornworms are suggested for daily feeding.

Silkworms are a wonderful staple and can be fed daily.

Supplements

Dust all feeders with Rep-Cal Calcium with vitamin D3 (pink label) 6 days a week. Dust all feeders with Rep-Cal Herptivite multivitamin (blue label) 1 day per week.

Vegetables should be misted with water before being sprinkled with calcium and/or multivitamins.

Hydration

Babies up to six months of age should be given a short soak in lukewarm water daily. Dragons six months and older should be soaked every other day in lukewarm water.

A separate water dish can be provided in the habitat, but it must be checked frequently and cleaned several times throughout the day in order to remove any food, urates or fecal matter.