



WHERE REPTILES RULE.®

# BEARDED DRAGON KIT SETUP & CARE GUIDE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW  
TO SETUP YOUR TERRARIUM  
AND CARE FOR BEARDED DRAGONS



## REPTILE PROFILE

**Name:** Bearded Dragon

**Type:** Terrestrial

**Activity:** Diurnal

**Habitat:** Arid woodlands  
or semi-desert

**Daytime Temperature:**  
80° - 90° F

**Basking Temperature:**  
100° - 110° F

**Nighttime Temperature:**  
70° - 75° F

**Humidity:** 25% - 40%

**Quick Facts:** Bearded dragons can have many different colors. Most commonly red, orange, gold, brown or gray.

Bearded dragons have quirky mating and territorial behavior such as: darkening and inflating the skin under its mouth giving the appearance of a beard, head bobbing up and down and waving one of their arms while standing on only three legs.





## TERRARIUM SETUP GUIDE



- 1. Add Zilla bedding to terrarium.** Pour bedding to a depth of 1 to 2 inches into the terrarium. Remove any animal waste or soiled bedding daily. Replace bedding monthly or as needed.



- 2. Add water dish in the terrarium.** Place the Lizard Lagoon™ dish in desired location.



## TERRARIUM SETUP GUIDE CONT'D



- 3. Attach the Humidity and Temperature Gauge on the back wall of the terrarium using the suction cups provided.** Mount in an easily-viewed, central location away from heat sources and water bowl.



- 4. Insert and slide screen cover on terrarium.** NOTE: When closing screen cover, make sure screen latches are secure.



- 5. Install bulbs in the reflector domes.** NOTE: Read important safety precautions before installation.



- 6. Place light domes on terrarium.** Place the domes with Day Blue Light and Night Black Heat bulbs on screen cover. Place the dome with Desert 50 UVB bulb next to fixture with Night Black Heat bulb.





## BEARDED DRAGON BASIC CARE GUIDE

### NUMBER OF BEARDED DRAGONS PER ENCLOSURE

Multiple bearded dragons can be kept together when small as long as they have room to move and stake out their own territory.

It is recommended that each juvenile bearded dragon have at least 180 square inches of floor space in the enclosure. As the dragons grow and mature, it is important that they be moved to larger, and possibly separate enclosures, based on behavior and aggression.

### BEDDING

There are several types of bedding suitable for bearded dragons, ranging from terrarium liners or carpets to substrates.

Terrarium liners are special felt carpeting for use as a cover on the bottom of terrariums. They are easy-to-clean, absorbent and non-abrasive, which will not irritate the reptile.

Using a substrate provides a natural-looking habitat. Always choose bedding that will pass through the dragon if accidentally ingested during feeding, such as alfalfa meal bedding. Remove soiled bedding daily.

### BASKING AND SHELTER

Bearded dragons enjoy climbing and basking during the day and shelter at night.

Adding pieces of décor will enhance the aesthetic look of the terrarium while providing basking areas and hiding places.

### HEATING

Providing proper heat for bearded dragons is critical to their welfare. Incandescent and basking lamps are ideal for providing the reptile the heat they need to stay healthy. The basking temperature under the daytime heat source should be 100° - 110° F and a temperature gradient in the terrarium from 80° on the cool end to 90° on the warm end during the day. At night, a temperature gradient of 70° - 75° F is the most desirable.

Use of heat-absorbing bedding and climbing or basking areas will increase the benefits of the heat generated from the radiant lamps. Place a thermometer close to the area of the terrarium where the dragons will be basking to ensure proper temperature. To adjust the temperature in the terrarium, use different wattage lamps.

### LIGHTING

Bearded dragons require full-spectrum lighting with high UVB output. Dragons need UVB light to manufacture vitamin D<sub>3</sub>, which is required for calcium absorption. It is best to offer bearded dragons 8-12 hours of light daily. (NOTE: Daytime lights should NOT be left on at all times.) Use a black or red light at night to provide the ambient heat reptiles need. They emit

## BASIC CARE GUIDE CONT'D

### LIGHTING CONT'

low levels of light that will not disturb the animal's day/night cycle while allowing nocturnal viewing.

It is important to keep consistent times when turning the day lights on and off. Use a timer to control the on/off light cycle.

### FEEDING AND WATERING

Bearded dragons should be offered live foods including crickets and mealworms. Other dietary foods include dry pellets and greens. It is generally easier to feed the pellets, which are often formulated to provide all of the nutrients needed by dragons.

Greens and vegetables—such as collards, mustard greens, zucchini and carrots—should be finely chopped before feeding to avoid the risk of choking. Dragons can be given fruit, but only in moderation.

Although they are the food of choice, live insects are deficient in essential vitamins and minerals that dragons require. For this reason, it is important to “gut load” or “dust” the live insects before offering to the dragon as food. This allows the feeder insects to consume calcium, vitamins and minerals to supplement the dragon's diet. Gut load supplements are available where reptile products are sold.

Bearded dragons, in the wild, drink water from the morning dew on plants. In your terrarium, provide water in a shallow dish so it is visible to the dragon. The dish should be heavy to avoid tipping and spilling. Provide fresh water daily.

### RECOMMENDED READING

*Complete Herp Care: Bearded Dragons*  
by Philip Purser

### RECOMMENDED PRODUCT

#### 24/7 Digital Timer Power Center

Controls daytime and nighttime lighting with minute-by-minute accuracy. It takes just seconds to program a week of heat and light cycles. Includes outlets that run on the timer and others that provide a constant current.

See [zilla-rules.com](http://zilla-rules.com) for more information on Power Centers and other quality Zilla products.





# COMPLETE KIT SETUP



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