

## **Iguana**

Scientific Name: Iguana

Native to: Mexico, Central, and South America

Maximum Length: 6 to 7 feet

Life Span: 15 to 20 years old.

### **Characteristics:**

The green iguana is one of the most common reptiles in the pet trade. These beautiful lizards are popular pets, however, very few people who purchase them can meet the requirements of an adult green iguana.

### **Care tips:**

Enclosure: A 20-gallon-long aquarium is suitable for babies and young green iguanas up to about 18 inches long. An adult green iguana requires an enclosure at least 12 feet long by 6 feet wide by 6 feet high. The height of 6 feet is very important as these lizards are primarily arboreal in nature.

Substrate: alfalfa pellets.

Habitat: arboreal

Temperature and Lighting: Green iguanas need lots of heat. One heat bulb is sufficient for a baby green iguana. An adult green iguana, will need a bank of multiple lights in order for the green iguana to adequately heat up its entire body. A hotspot of at least 120 degrees Fahrenheit should be provided. Additionally, the heat should come from above the green iguana, enabling it to thermoregulate as required. UVA/UVB lighting is required.

Food and Water: Water should always be made available. Remember that smaller green iguanas, especially babies, may not be able to locate their water bowl. Because of this, it is vital that you mist them daily and soak them at least twice weekly in order to ensure that they are well hydrated. Green iguana dietary needs are easily met with raw natural foods that can be purchased in a supermarket. Vegetables such as collard greens, turnip greens, dandelions, yellow squash, whole green beans, etc., are excellent food for your green iguana. Fruit can also be provided once a week.