



# LWAS Animal Care Sheets

## Bearded Dragon

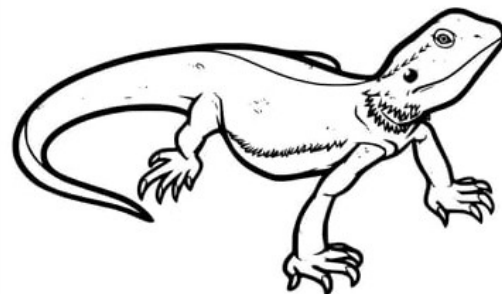
**Bearded dragons are docile omnivores. Native to Australia, they are popular pets because they tend to be easy to handle.**

### Quick Facts

**Average size:** 12-24 in **Diet:** insects, greens, veg

**Average Lifespan:** 10 years **Handling:** Beginner

**Enclosure:** large tank or terrarium



### Housing

**Size:** At least 72 inches long by 16 inches wide by 17 inches high for a single adult dragon.

**Population:** Bearded Dragons should be housed individually, as they are territorial.

**Substrate:** Newspaper, butcher paper, non-adhesive shelf liner, tile, or reptile carpet

Our vet recommends against loose substrates like sand, dirt and shavings because they can be accidentally ingested by your beardie.

#### Temperature:

80-85 degrees Fahrenheit (27-29 degrees Celsius) with a basking area of 90-95 degrees F (32-35 degrees C).

Night time temperature can be as low as 70 degrees F (21 degrees C)

We typically have a heat pad under one side of the cage, a red light or ceramic bulb on 24hrs, a UVB bulb on during the day, and a basking bulb on during the day.

Sometimes the basking bulb is not necessary if the red/heat keeps the tank at the desired temps.

**Humidity:** 30-50%, the same as that of an average human house.

**UVB:** Like most reptiles, beardies need a UVB light. Make sure the bulb says "UVB" because not all bulbs have it.

### Handling

Beardies like to have their feet supported and not dangling, so its best to hold them against your chest, on your lap or on a towel. Make sure their claws aren't stuck on anything as you pick them up, so you don't hurt their toes.

This species is famous for just "chilling" wherever they are comfy.

### Soaking

Allowing a beardie to soak in a shallow tub of warm water will encourage good hydration, healthy shedding and keep them looking bright and colorful. Be warned: your beardie will probably go to the bathroom while soaking!