

# Bearded Dragon Care Sheet

Animal Ark Veterinary Hospital  
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Bearded Dragons Originally came from the deserts of Australia. They come in several different colors ranging from red to yellow and all oranges in between.

## Supply List:

- Tank
- Repti-Carpet
- Basking Day Light
- Red Heat Night Light or Ceramic Heat-Emitter
- UVB Light (high watt)
- Water Dish and Spray Bottle
- Cage Décor
- Calcium + D3 Supplement
- Multivitamin Supplement
- Insects of Choice
- Insect Gut Loading Food and Water
- Small Travel Cage
- IR Thermometer

## Please Call With any Questions or Concerns

Animal Ark has multiple exotic-focused Veterinarians on staff, including the Owner of the practice Dr. Spindel.

Please call to schedule an appointment with one of our wonderful Veterinarians today!



1. Heat Basking Light: Bearded Dragons need a baking spot in their tank that should hit temperatures of about 95-100 degrees F. This can be provided with a white daytime basking bulb and a nighttime bulb (night temperatures should stay above 80F). An IR thermometer is a great way to verify temperatures.
2. UVB Light: Bearded Dragons are used in a desert environment with lots of sunlight. They need a high powered UVB light during the day
3. Heat Basking Spot: This heat spot should be elevated if needed to ensure proper temperature. It can be a rock/tile-like material that warms with the heat.
4. Elevated Spot: Many Bearded Dragons like to climb and the shown hammock is a fun addition to the cage.
5. Bottom Substrate: If Bearded Dragons are fed in their tank, their substrate needs to be a material they cannot eat. The Repti-carpet (shown) works best. They can then have a sand dig box for time out of the cage or to be placed in during supervised play to prevent impaction.
6. Water dish: A water dish of decent size should be provided at all times even if it does not appear the bearded dragon is drinking from it.
7. Tank: Bearded Dragons get very large and should have as large of a tank as possible as adults (min size 50 gallon). As juveniles, a smaller tank can be used and increased as they grow or they can be hand-fed/fed in a smaller tank to help them catch live prey easier. The tank should be set up with hot and cold side with cold side temp should be about 80 degrees F.

## Diet:

Bearded Dragons' diet will change with age

Young Bearded Dragons' diet will be more live prey insects (85%) and fewer veggies. (15%)

Example diet: Variety of gut-loaded small dubia roaches, crickets, super-worms (if Bearded dragon is large enough), and mealworms. Veggies/fruit like kale, spinach, and berries (blue/black/raspberries).

Adult Bearded Dragons will be more veggies (85%), especially calcium-rich green veggies like Kale, and fewer insects (15%).

Example diet: Veggies, mainly kale and berries can be offered. Decrease the number of insects but still should consist of gut-loaded Dubai roaches, crickets, and super-worms.

**Always use gut-loaded insects and add a calcium + D3 and multivitamin supplement to food.**

## Good to Know:

Bearded Dragons full grown reach about 2 foot-long with tail. They will shed their skin around once a month while growing and less often as adults. Many eat less, are quieter, or even grumpy while shedding.

Their "beard" turns black when they are angry or stressed.

Since many Bearded Dragon will not appear to drink from a water dish, misting them a couple of times a day is a great way to ensure they drink.

Many love swimming and can be put in warm, shallow water WHILE SUPERVISED to swim and soak. Being in the water helps them to shed properly and helps their digestion. Many will defecate in the water.