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FRILLED DRAGON

Chlamydosaurus Kingii

ORIGIN: Frilled Dragons can be found in Australia and New Guinea. Many found in the pet trade are imported from farms in Indonesia.

SIZE: These lizards will reach an average size of 10" from nose to vent. However, their tails will grow to be nearly twice the length of their bodies. They can also live to be 15-20 years old with good husbandry.

CAGING: While a 20 gallon tank can accommodate a young juvenile, it is recommended that an adult have an enclosure of at least 55-100 gallon tank. As a general rule, the larger the enclosure the better. Frilled dragons love to climb. You should have numerous vines or branches that are at least the thickness of your dragon's body available for your pet.

TEMPERAMENT: While these lizards are generally very tolerant of human contact they do become aggressive towards other lizards. Males are particularly territorial and should not be housed together. Dragons should not be housed with smaller lizards, as the smaller lizard will likely become dinner for the larger. If a dragon feels threatened he will show aggression by extending his frill and gaping his mouth. If the threat does not retreat the dragon will usually flee on two legs.

SUBSTRATE: You have many choices for substrate including sand, cypress mulch, newspaper, reptile carpet, or coconut bedding. Newspaper or reptile carpet is more ideal for young dragons, as they can easily become impacted with digestible substrate.

TEMPERATURE: An ambient cage temperature should be approximately 84-88 degrees, with a basking area no warmer than 98 degrees. There should be a natural drop in temperatures at night, 74 to 78 degrees is a good night time range. You may use either basking bulbs that give both light and heat or ceramic heat emitters for the basking spot. If these are not enough to bring up the temperature of the entire enclosure, an undertank heater may be used. Check your temperatures with thermometers on both ends of your enclosure.

LIGHT: Frilled dragons require full spectrum fluorescent lighting. Make sure the bulbs you choose give off both UVA and UVB rays. Frilled Dragons will also benefit from natural sunlight (weather permitting).

WATER: These dragons are notorious for defecating in their water. Make sure the water dish you choose is large enough for the lizard to fit into, and has an easy to clean surface, as you should be prepared to clean it at least once per day.

DIET: These dragons are primarily carnivorous. Crickets, mealworms, and superworms are most commonly fed to juveniles, but roaches, rodents, and small lizards would also be relished by adults. Never feed your dragon too large of a prey item. Look to feed prey that is between 1/2 to 3/4 the size of your pet's head. Many frilled dragons also enjoy greens. Collard greens, mustard greens, carrots, squash, peas, corn, and small amounts of fruit may be offered daily. Make sure to offer supplemental calcium and vitamin D3, as recommended by product labels, each multi-vitamin is different.

RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- Glass or plastic enclosure
- Secure lid for enclosure
- UVA/UVB fluorescent bulb
- Substrate as detailed above
- Literature about frilled lizards
- Hiding and climbing areas
- Deep, large water dish and food bowl
- Heat producing bulb or ceramic heat emitter
- Thermometers to monitor temperature

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

- Night light for nighttime viewing
- Silk plants and branches
- Decorative cage background
- Heat mat approximately half size of enclosure

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NOTE: The information contained in this caresheet solely represents the opinions of the author. It is not intended as a complete guide to captive husbandry.