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# GREEN IGUANA

*Iguana iguana*

**ORIGIN:** Green iguanas are native to Central and South America. Most iguanas in the U.S. originate in El Salvador or Colombia. They are arboreal and naturally inhabit dense tropical rainforests.

**SIZE:** Green iguanas reach an average adult size of 4.5 feet. Males are typically larger than females, and may reach lengths in excess of 6 feet.

**CAGING:** Green iguanas may be successfully kept in a variety of enclosures which retain humidity. Juveniles can live in a 20-gallon aquarium, but adults will likely require a custom built enclosure.

**SUBSTRATE:** Green iguanas can be kept on a variety of substrates including soil, mulch, peat moss, bark, cage carpet, and newspaper. The substrate should retain humidity and be easily cleaned. Gravel and aquarium pebbles are not recommended as they may be accidentally ingested.

**TEMPERATURE:** Green iguanas should be provided with a thermal gradient ranging from 80°F at one end of the cage to 105°F at the other. This is easily achieved by placing a heat light at one end of the enclosure.

**LIGHT:** Green iguanas require full-spectrum lighting to properly synthesize calcium and other vitamins. This can be provided with a variety of commercial light bulbs made for reptiles. A basking area must be provided with a heat lamp. Lights should be left on only during the day.

**WATER:** Green iguanas should be provided with fresh, clean water at all times. Use a water dish which allows the lizard to submerge its entire body. In addition, the cage should be misted at least once daily to maintain humidity levels above 60%.

**DIET:** Green iguanas are strictly herbivores. They should be fed a mixture dark, leafy greens and vegetables that are high in calcium and low in phosphorous, such as squash. Fruit should be offered on a limited basis. In addition, a commercial iguana diet can be used. A vitamin and mineral supplement powder for reptiles should be used as directed by the manufacturer.

## RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- Enclosure as detailed above
- Heat lamp
- UV emitting light
- Thermometer with probe to monitor temperature at both ends of enclosure
- Substrate as detailed above
- Literature about green iguana husbandry
- Water dish
- Vitamin and mineral supplement
- Branches and vines for climbing
- Spray bottle

## OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

- Night light for nighttime viewing
- Live plants
- Decorative cage background

## SMALL ANIMAL & REPTILE REPLACEMENT GUARANTEE

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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.