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# TEXAS COLLARED LIZARD

*Crotaphytus collaris*

**ORIGIN:** Texas collared lizards are native to the southwestern United States from California to Texas. They naturally occur in arid desert regions with rocky outcroppings.

**SIZE:** Texas collared lizards reach an average adult size of 8 to 10 inches. Males are typically larger and more brightly colored than females.

**CAGING:** Texas collared lizards will thrive in a variety of glass and custom enclosures which are conducive to creating an environment with high heat and low humidity. A 20-gallon aquarium is large enough to house an adult pair.

**SUBSTRATE:** Texas collared lizards can be kept on a variety of substrates including alfalfa pellets, mulch, cage carpet, and newspaper. However, sand is the preferred substrate.

**TEMPERATURE:** Texas collared lizards should be provided with a thermal gradient ranging from 85°F at one end of the cage to 115°F under the basking area. This is easily achieved by placing a heat lamp at one end of the enclosure.

**LIGHT:** Texas collared lizards 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.

**WATER:** Texas collared lizards should be provided with fresh, clean water at all times. Use a small, shallow water bowl which is not easily overturned.

**DIET:** Texas collared lizards feed on a variety of commercially available feeder insects including mealworms, crickets, and wax worms. Prior to feeding, insects should be dusted with a vitamin and mineral supplement powder for reptiles.

## 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 collared lizard husbandry
- Shallow water dish
- Hiding area such as cork bark or imitation rock
- Vitamin and mineral supplement

## OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

- Artificial rock
- Colored incandescent bulb for nighttime viewing
- Silk plants and branches
- Decorative cage background
- Moist hide area

## SMALL ANIMAL & REPTILE REPLACEMENT GUARANTEE

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- Please practice proper hygiene whenever handling animals.

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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.*