Uromastyx Companion Care Guide



WHEN DO I SEE A VET?

- Annual wellness exam
- Brumation (hibernation) wellness exams
- Not eating or pooping for over a week
- Open mouth breathing or noise while breathing
- Diarrhea, blood in feces, vomiting, or regurgitation
- Retained shed, tail rot, redness, swelling, or open wounds of the skin
- Enlarged eyes, swelling or bleeding of the mouth
- Any health concerns or questions

Feeding

Baby and Juveniles: 1-2 times a day

Adults: 1-2 times a day or as needed to maintain desired weight

Calcium and vitamin supplements:

Dust greens daily with calcium and vitamins every 1-2 weeks.

Consult with your veterinarian to discuss the possible need of adding vitamin D_3 to your calcium dusting as in some cases it may be beneficial or recommended.

Recommended Dusting Supplements:

Repashy Calcium Plus Reptile Supplement
Flukers Calcium without D_3 and phosphorus free
ZooMed Repti Calcium without D_3
ZooMed Reptivite without D_3

Uromastyx are mainly herbivorous, but are known to also eat insects occasionally. Appropriate methods to feeding included offering greens and veggies in the morning and evening with a few insects once a week, rotating days offering greens in the morning and vegetables in the evening with weekly offerings of insects, or even offering greens and vegetables daily together and insects once or twice a week.

Greens and Vegetable Options: (~90% of diet)

Mustard greens, collard greens, kale, cabbage, turnup greens, shredded carrots, spineless prickly pear, dandelion flowers and greens, or shredded yellow squash. A dish offering lentils, millet, and split peas can be available at all times. Offer in a dish or surface away from substrate.

Insect Food Sources: (~10% of Diet)

Most common offered are superworms and mealworms, but can also offer crickets or dubia roaches. It is important to feed these in a food dish where they cannot escape or cause the uromastyx to consume a substrate while trying to eat.

Common Illnesses

- Tail rot, retained shed (Dysecdysis)
- Intestinal parasites
- Eggbinding or dystocia
- Nutritional Secondary Hyperparathyroidism (Metabolic Bone Disease)
- Cloacal prolapse
- Trauma and open wounds
- Bladder stones
- Renal Disease
- Dehydration

Is My Uromastyx a Male or Female?

Some species of uromastyx are sexually dimorphic, meaning we can visually differentiate a male from a female. Males and females will vary in color and size depending on their specific species in these cases. In addition, the most reliable way in determining sex can be done by a skilled veterinary professional through several methods at a younger age including probing for hemipene pockets, endoscopic sex determination, and ultrasound sex determination. Listed below is a helpful characteristic that you look for to visually differentiate a male and female.

Hemipene Bulges – Adult males will have enlarged bulges on the bottom of their tail past the vent. Depending on the weight of the lizard these can be easy or hard to see. Females lack hemipenes and do not develop the same bulge seen in the males.

Husbandry

Enclosure Sizes

Babies: A 40 gallon (30" L x 12" W x 12" H) or larger enclosure

Adults: A 120 gallon (48" L x 24" W x 24" H) or larger enclosure

Enclosures should have a basking area, hide, and décor to provide enrichment to your uromastyx.

Housing

Uromastyx are territorial reptiles and should be housed alone unless for breeding purposes, due to risk of injury and fighting that can be harmful to your uromastyx's health.

Humidity and Hydration

Ideal humidity for a uromastyx is 10-40% humidity and should be monitored using a hygrometer inside the enclosure. Most uromastyx won't drink out of a water dish and prefer to drink from condensation or mist on their body or in the enclosure. To achieve a desired drinking and hydration a night-time fogging with a humidifier or fogger twice a week or an early morning misting can help achieve proper hydration.

Substrate/Flooring

Paper towels, tile flooring, shelf liners, and slate floor are all acceptable flooring options. Uromastyx are known to commonly get substrate impactions and caution should and research should be done before choosing a substrate. Particle substates such as "WASHED" playsand and ecoearth top soil are good options to allow for burrowing and enrichment. It is important to monitor hydration and volumes of sand being consumed while on a substrate such as washed playsand or ecoearth. If using a top soil substrate preforming routine changes every 6 months is recommended and every 12 month when using a washed playsand with weekly fecal sifting on a routine basis.

Enrichment

Thrive Feeding Ball – Allows your uromastyx to stay stimulated and rotate a plastic ball to gain access their insect food source.

Obstacle Mazes – stimulates activity and exercise for your uromastyx to obtain food.

Supervised Time Outside Their Enclosure – A clean, item free area where you can supervise the activity with access to no other pets including dogs, or cats and no area to fall from high heights.

Outdoor Enclosure – On days where weather is appropriate with shelter and a water source in an enclosure safe from predators and secure from escaping this is a great stimulation and source of natural UVB.

Lighting and Temperatures

Lighting:

Ideal hours of daylight to nightlight:

10-14 hours on and 14-10 hours off

Recommended UVB lights include:

T5 Strip Lights:

- Arcadia T5 D3+ Reptile Lamp 14% UVB w/reflector
- Zoomed Reptisun 10.0 UVB T5-HO w/reflector

Mercury Vapor Bulbs:

- Zoomed Reptisun 160 Watt
- MegaRay 160 Watt

Metal Halide:

- Osram GmbH Ultravitalux 300W

Temperatures:

Basking Temperatures: 110-130°F

Cool Side: 80-90°F

Nighttime Temperatures: 70-80°F

Avoid temperatures below 65°F due to risk of causing digestive issue and other illnesses.