



## Wet Pets N Critters

### Green Iguana Care Guide

*(Iguana iguana)*

Green iguanas are large, impressive lizards that can make fascinating pets for experienced reptile keepers. With proper care, they can live **10–20 years** and grow up to **5–7 feet long**!

### Housing

- **Enclosure Size:**
  - Green iguanas need a **very large enclosure**. For juveniles, a **40-gallon tank** is suitable, but adults will require a **custom enclosure** at least **6 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 6 feet tall**.
- **Enclosure Type:**
  - A **screened, well-ventilated enclosure** with climbing branches and basking areas.
- **Substrate:**
  - Use **reptile carpet, paper-based bedding, or coconut fiber** (available at Wet Pets N Critters). Avoid loose substrate that could be ingested.
- **Decor:**
  - Provide **sturdy climbing branches, basking platforms, and artificial or live plants**.

### Temperature & Heating

- **Basking Spot:** 95–100°F
- **Cool Side:** 75–85°F
- **Nighttime Temperature:** 70–75°F
- Use **heat bulbs** or **ceramic heat emitters** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).

### Lighting

- **UVB (10.0) is essential** for iguanas to absorb calcium and prevent metabolic bone disease.
- Use a **UVB bulb** designed for reptiles (replace every 6–12 months).
- Maintain a **12-hour light/dark cycle** using a timer.

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### Humidity

- Keep humidity between **60–80%**.
- Mist the enclosure daily and use a **humidity gauge** for monitoring.
- Consider adding a **large water dish** or **humidifier** for extra moisture.

### Diet

Iguanas are **strict herbivores**. Feed a varied diet of **dark, leafy greens and vegetables**, such as:

- Collard greens
- Mustard greens
- Dandelion greens
- Squash
- Green beans

Offer occasional fruits like papaya or mango (small amounts).

**Do NOT feed:** animal protein, dog/cat food, iceberg lettuce, or spinach.

**Calcium Supplement:** Lightly dust food with **calcium powder (without vitamin D3 if using UVB lighting)** 2–3 times a week.

Provide **fresh water** daily in a large, sturdy dish.

## Cleaning & Maintenance

- Spot-clean waste daily.
- Replace substrate as needed (every 4–6 weeks for most substrates).
- Clean the enclosure and decor with a **reptile-safe cleaner** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) monthly.

## Handling

Iguanas can become tame with regular, gentle handling, but they are **not naturally cuddly pets**. Handle carefully, supporting the body and avoiding sudden movements. Be patient—building trust takes time.

## Health Tips

A healthy iguana should:

- Be alert and active
- Have bright eyes and a healthy appetite
- Shed regularly and completely

Signs of concern:

- Lethargy
- Swollen joints
- Difficulty climbing
- Loss of appetite

Contact a reptile-savvy veterinarian if you notice any issues.

## Supplies Checklist (Available at Wet Pets N Critters)

- Large enclosure or custom habitat
- Screen lid (for smaller tanks)
- UVB 10.0 bulb
- Heat bulbs or ceramic heat emitter

- Digital thermometer and humidity gauge
- Reptile carpet, paper bedding, or coconut fiber
- Climbing branches and basking platforms
- Water dish
- Calcium powder
- Reptile-safe cleaner
- Fresh greens and vegetables