

Asian Water Monitor Care Guide

Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop

Basic Info

Species: *Varanus salvator* (Asian Water Monitor)

Lifespan: 15-25+ years

Adult Size: 4-7 feet (can reach over 8 feet in rare cases)

Temperament: Intelligent, powerful, and can be tamed with consistent interaction

Best for: Advanced reptile keepers with extensive space, strength, and experience

Enclosure Setup

Tank Size:

- Babies: 75-120 gallon tank minimum
- Adults: Custom enclosure 8x6x6 ft minimum - bigger is always better
- Must be reinforced and secure, with dig-proof flooring

Temperature & Heating:

- Basking spot: 130-140°F
- Ambient daytime temp: 82-90°F
- Cool side: 75-80°F
- Night: no lower than 75°F
- Use halogen bulbs, heat panels, and thermostats

Humidity:

- Maintain 60-90% humidity
- Large water basin, misting, and live plants help maintain levels
- Monitor with digital hygrometer

Lighting:

- Strong UVB lighting required (T5 HO 10.0 or Arcadia 12%)
- Provide full-spectrum lighting on a 12-hour cycle
- Place basking ledge within proper UVB range

Substrate:

- Deep diggable base (12-24 inches): organic topsoil, clay, sand/soil mix
- Spot clean regularly and allow for burrowing

Décor & Enrichment:

- Heavy-duty logs, basking shelves, large hides, climbing structures
- Large water basin deep enough to soak and swim in

Diet & Feeding

Feeding Frequency:

- Babies: Feed daily
- Adults: Feed 2-4x/week

Diet:

- Whole prey: mice, rats, quail, chicks, crawfish, snails, raw fish
- Insects: roaches, crickets, BSFL, hornworms
- Occasional: cooked eggs, shrimp, turkey (no seasoning)
- Avoid fatty meats and processed pet foods

Supplementation:

- Calcium with D3: 2-3x/week
- Multivitamin: 1x/week
- Gut-load insects before feeding

Water & Hydration:

- Provide large soaking basin or shallow pool
- Change daily to prevent bacterial growth

Handling & Behavior

Handling:

- Can be tamed with frequent, calm handling
- Start slow - babies may be defensive
- Use gloves or hook initially, always support full body

Behavior to Expect:

- Diurnal and highly intelligent
- Will dig, swim, and patrol enclosure
- Can recognize caregivers and even be leash-trained

Supplies Checklist

- Custom large enclosure (8x6x6 ft minimum)
- UVB and high-wattage basking bulbs
- Radiant heat panels or ceramic emitters
- Deep substrate for digging
- Large soaking area or shallow pond
- Whole prey and live feeders
- Digital thermometer, hygrometer, and thermostats
- Strong climbing decor and reinforced hides

Contact Us

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We're here to help!