

Black-Throat Monitor Care Guide

Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop

Basic Info

Species: *Varanus albigularis ionidesi* (Black-Throat Monitor, a subspecies of the Rock Monitor)

Lifespan: 15-25+ years

Adult Size: 4-6 feet, potentially heavier-bodied than most monitors

Temperament: Intelligent and powerful; can be docile with regular, calm handling

Best for: Advanced reptile keepers with the space and experience to manage large monitors

Enclosure Setup

Tank Size:

- Babies: 75-120 gallon minimum
- Adults: Custom 8x4x6 ft enclosure or larger
- Must be escape-proof, secure, and made of strong, reinforced materials

Temperature & Heating:

- Basking area: 130-140°F
- Ambient daytime temp: 80-90°F
- Cool side: 75-80°F
- Night: 70-75°F minimum
- Use high-output halogen bulbs or radiant heat panels with thermostats

Humidity:

- Maintain 40-60% ambient humidity
- Provide humid hide or burrow area with 60-70% humidity
- Mist as needed and monitor with digital hygrometer

Lighting:

- Strong UVB lighting required (T5 HO 10.0 or Arcadia 12%)
- 12-14 hour light/dark cycle
- Place basking platforms within 12-18 inches of UVB bulb

Substrate:

- 12-24 inches of diggable substrate: organic topsoil, sand/clay mix, or bioactive setup
- Substrate should hold shape but not stay wet

Décor & Enrichment:

- Large logs, rocks, climbing ledges, strong hides
- Deep dig spots and a large water tub for soaking

Diet & Feeding

Feeding Frequency:

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

Diet:

- Whole prey: mice, rats, chicks, fish, quail, crawfish
- Insects: roaches, crickets, hornworms, BSFL
- Occasional: eggs (raw or boiled), snails, lean meats
- Avoid: dog food, fatty or processed foods

Supplementation:

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

Water & Hydration:

- Provide large water basin for soaking and drinking
- Change daily to prevent bacteria and odor

Handling & Behavior

Handling:

- Begin with slow, confident handling sessions
- Use a hook if needed for defensive individuals
- Always support full body weight and avoid sudden movements

Behavior to Expect:

- Diurnal, intelligent, and inquisitive
- Will dig, bask, climb, and soak
- Can become food-focused and should be monitored during feeding

Supplies Checklist

- Custom-built 8x4x6 ft enclosure (minimum)
- High-output UVB and basking lights
- Radiant heat panel or ceramic emitters for ambient temps
- Deep substrate mix (sand/topsoil/clay)
- Water tub large enough for soaking
- Thermometers, hygrometers, and thermostats
- Variety of prey items and feeder insects
- Calcium and vitamin supplements

Contact Us

Custom Creatures Pet Shop

2750 Bay Rd, Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (866) 797-4001

Email: support@thecustomcreatures.com

We're here to help!