

# **Basilisk Lizard Care Guide**

*Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop*

## **Basic Info**

Species: Basiliscus spp. (Common species include B. basiliscus, B. plumifrons, and B. vittatus)

Lifespan: 8-12 years in captivity

Adult Size: 18-30 inches depending on species

Temperament: Nervous and fast - best as a display animal

Best for: Intermediate to experienced keepers with large arboreal setups

## **Enclosure Setup**

Tank Size:

- Juveniles: 20-40 gallon vertical tank minimum
- Adults: 36x18x36 inches or larger
- Vertical space is crucial - basilisks are strong climbers

Temperature & Heating:

- Basking spot: 90-95°F
- Ambient daytime temp: 78-85°F
- Nighttime temp: 70-75°F
- Use basking bulb or ceramic heater with thermostat

Humidity:

- Maintain 60-80% humidity
- Mist 2-3x daily or use automated misting
- Digital hygrometer recommended

Lighting:

- UVB required (T5 HO 5.0 or Arcadia 6-12%)
- Provide 12-hour light/dark cycle
- Ensure basking platform is within UVB range (12-18 inches)

Substrate:

- Coconut fiber, cypress mulch, or soil/sand mix
- Maintain slight moisture but avoid wet substrate

Décor & Enrichment:

- Strong branches, vines, driftwood, live or fake plants
- Add visual barriers and vertical hides

## **Diet & Feeding**

Feeding Frequency:

- Juveniles: Daily
- Adults: Every other day

Diet:

- Insects: crickets, dubia roaches, BSFL, hornworms, mealworms (variety is key)
- Occasional fruit: berries, melon, banana (1-2x/week)
- Adults may accept leafy greens (dandelion, escarole, collard)

Supplementation:

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

Water & Hydration:

- Provide a shallow water dish (may soak or drink)
- Mist enclosure for hydration

## **Handling & Behavior**

Handling:

- Not recommended - easily stressed and fast
- Will often leap or run on hind legs when startled
- Best enjoyed as an observational display animal

Behavior to Expect:

- Diurnal and arboreal

- Can run on water for short distances (especially *B. basiliscus*)
- Will bask, hide, and explore during the day

## **Supplies Checklist**

- 40+ gallon tall enclosure or larger
- UVB bulb and basking bulb
- Thermostat, digital thermometer, and hygrometer
- Substrate that retains humidity
- Misting system or spray bottle
- Live insects and supplements
- Climbing branches, vines, and visual cover
- Water dish for soaking or drinking

## **Contact Us**

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We're here to help!