

Nile Monitor Care Guide

Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop

Basic Info

Species: *Varanus niloticus* (Nile Monitor)

Lifespan: 15-25+ years

Adult Size: 4-7 feet

Temperament: Highly intelligent but defensive; best suited for advanced keepers

Best for: Advanced reptile handlers with space and experience with large, powerful lizards

Enclosure Setup

Tank Size:

- Babies: 75-120 gallon tank minimum
- Adults: Custom enclosure 8x4x6 ft or larger
- Must be escape-proof and made from durable materials

Temperature & Heating:

- Basking area: 130-140°F
- Ambient temp: 80-90°F
- Cool side: 75-80°F
- Night: 70-75°F
- Use high-wattage basking bulbs or radiant heat panels

Humidity:

- Maintain 60-80% humidity
- Large water container and frequent misting help maintain levels
- Provide a moist hide or burrow zone

Lighting:

- Strong UVB required (T5 HO 10.0 or Arcadia 12%)
- Provide full-spectrum lighting on a 12-hour cycle
- UVB bulb should span 2/3 of the enclosure

Substrate:

- Deep digging substrate: organic topsoil, clay/loam, and sand mix
- Minimum depth: 12-24 inches

Décor & Enrichment:

- Strong branches, large hides, rocks, logs, and basking platforms
- Heavy-duty water tub for soaking and swimming

Diet & Feeding

Feeding Frequency:

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

Diet:

- Whole prey (mice, rats, chicks, quail, fish, snails, crawfish)
- Insects: roaches, crickets, BSFL, superworms
- Optional: eggs (raw or cooked), lean meats occasionally
- Avoid dog/cat food and fatty meats

Supplementation:

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

Water & Hydration:

- Large water tub for soaking and swimming
- Clean and change daily to prevent bacterial buildup

Handling & Behavior

Handling:

- Not recommended for beginners - can be aggressive or fearful
- Use hooks, gloves, and caution during enclosure maintenance
- May tame over time with consistent handling and patience

Behavior to Expect:

- Diurnal, very strong, and highly active
- Digs, swims, climbs, and investigates enclosure frequently
- Will tail whip, gape, or bite when threatened

Supplies Checklist

- Custom-built large enclosure (8x4x6 ft or larger)
- High-output UVB lighting and high-wattage basking bulbs
- Ceramic heat emitter or radiant panels
- Deep diggable substrate
- Large water tub for soaking and swimming
- Whole prey diet and varied feeders
- Digital thermometers and hygrometers
- Reinforced decor for climbing and basking

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!