

Ackie Monitor Care Guide

Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop

Basic Info

Species: *Varanus acanthurus* (Ackie Monitor, also called Spiny-Tailed Monitor)

Lifespan: 12-20+ years in captivity

Adult Size: 20-28 inches (including tail)

Temperament: Active, intelligent, and typically very handleable with regular interaction

Best for: Intermediate reptile keepers or advanced beginners with proper setup knowledge

Enclosure Setup

Tank Size:

- Babies: 40-75 gallon minimum
- Adults: 4x2x2 ft (minimum) - larger is better for enrichment
- Provide horizontal floor space and deep substrate

Temperature & Heating:

- Basking spot: 120-140°F
- Ambient daytime temp: 80-90°F
- Cool side: 75-80°F
- Night: 70-75°F
- Use halogen bulbs, ceramic heat emitters, or radiant panels

Humidity:

- Ambient humidity: 30-50%
- Provide humid burrows (60-70%) using layered substrate
- Monitor with digital hygrometer

Lighting:

- High-output UVB required (T5 HO 10.0 or Arcadia 12%)
- 12-hour light/dark cycle
- Basking platform should be within UVB range

Substrate:

- 8-12 inches of a diggable mix: organic topsoil, play sand, and clay
- Must retain burrow shape and allow natural behaviors

Décor & Enrichment:

- Logs, rocks, branches, basking ledges, and secure hides
- Offer tunnels, tubes, and digging opportunities

Diet & Feeding

Feeding Frequency:

- Babies: Feed daily
- Adults: Feed 3-5x/week

Diet:

- Staple: roaches, crickets, BSFL, hornworms, superworms
- Occasional: boiled egg, cooked chicken, pinky mice (adults only)
- Avoid: fatty meats, cat/dog food, or feeder insects not gut-loaded

Supplementation:

- Calcium without D3: 3-4x/week
- Multivitamin: 1x/week
- Gut-load insects before feeding

Water & Hydration:

- Shallow water dish available for drinking
- Mist occasionally to maintain burrow humidity

Handling & Behavior

Handling:

- Start slow and build trust
- Support full body and allow to climb on hand/arms
- Very curious and interactive with consistent care

Behavior to Expect:

- Diurnal and extremely active
- Will bask, dig, climb, and chase insects
- Curious and intelligent - can recognize feeding tools and caretakers

Supplies Checklist

- 4x2x2 ft enclosure (minimum for adults)
- High-output UVB and intense basking bulb
- Digital thermometer, thermostat, and hygrometer
- 8-12 inches of diggable substrate mix
- Strong basking décor and hides
- Gut-loaded insect feeders and supplements
- Shallow water dish and enrichment items

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!