

Mophead Iguana Care Guide

Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop

Basic Info

Common Name: Mophead Iguana (likely *Ctenosaura* hybrid, often *C. melanosterna* x *C. pectinata*)

Lifespan: 15-25+ years

Adult Size: 2.5-4 feet including tail

Temperament: Intelligent and active; can be territorial but tame with regular handling

Best for: Intermediate to advanced reptile keepers

Enclosure Setup

Tank Size:

- Babies: 40-75 gallon minimum
- Adults: Custom 6x3x4 ft enclosure or larger with vertical space
- Horizontal and vertical space for climbing and basking

Temperature & Heating:

- Basking area: 100-110°F
- Ambient daytime temp: 80-90°F
- Nighttime low: 70-75°F
- Use ceramic heat emitters or basking bulbs with thermostat control

Humidity:

- Maintain 50-70% humidity
- Mist once or twice daily or use an automatic misting system
- Include a humid hide or live plants to retain moisture

Lighting:

- High-output UVB required (T5 HO 10.0 or Arcadia 12%)
- Maintain 12-14 hour day/night cycle
- Ensure basking platform is 12-18 inches from UVB source

Substrate:

- Organic topsoil, coconut coir, or a soil/sand mix
- Depth of 3-6 inches recommended for digging
- Avoid pine, cedar, or dusty substrates

Décor & Enrichment:

- Strong branches, logs, basking shelves, cork bark
- Provide hiding spaces and open basking zones

Diet & Feeding

Feeding Frequency:

- Feed daily for babies and juveniles
- Adults: 5-6 days per week

Diet:

- 70-80% dark leafy greens: dandelion, collard, mustard, turnip
- 10-20% vegetables: squash, bell peppers, cactus pad
- Occasional fruit (1-2x/week): melon, berries, mango
- Occasional insect protein for young iguanas: crickets, roaches, BSFL

Supplementation:

- Calcium without D3: 3-4x/week
- Multivitamin: 1x/week
- Cuttlebone or mineral block recommended

Water & Hydration:

- Large water bowl for drinking and soaking
- Daily misting helps with shedding and humidity

Handling & Behavior

Handling:

- Begin with slow, consistent interaction
- Use gloves early if the animal tail-whips or resists
- Support the entire body and avoid tail handling

Behavior to Expect:

- Diurnal and highly active
- Likes to climb, dig, bask, and explore
- Very intelligent and may recognize caregivers over time

Supplies Checklist

- 40-75 gallon tank for babies, custom 6+ ft enclosure for adults
- Basking bulbs, UVB light, and ceramic heat emitter
- Strong climbing decor and secure hides
- Digital thermometer and hygrometer
- Organic or bioactive substrate
- Leafy greens, veggies, fruit, calcium and vitamin supplements
- Misting system or spray bottle
- Large water bowl for soaking

Contact Us

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We're here to help!