



Asian Water Monitor Care Sheet

Species Name:

Varanus salvator

Adult size:

7-10 ft

Lifespan:

10-25 Years



The Asian water monitor, *Varanus salvator*, is a large, powerful lizard native to South and Southeast Asia. It has a sleek, muscular body, with dark brown or black scales marked by yellow or cream-coloured spots and bands. Its long, flattened tail aids in swimming, while sharp claws and a forked tongue add to its predatory nature. These lizards can grow up to 10 feet (3 meters) and weigh over 40 pounds (18 kilograms). Despite their size, they are generally shy around humans, preferring to flee when feeling threatened. As pets, they can become tame but require patience and regular handling.

Visit Reptco.co.uk

Enclosure:

Terrarium Size: A large vivarium with plenty of ground space as well as vertical space is required. As juveniles, these monitors spend lots of time climbing through trees and on the ground and around water. To start we would recommend 86.2 x 49 x 91.5 cm but this will be outgrown quickly.

Substrate:

Use a substrate that retains humidity, such as coconut coir or a mixture of sphagnum moss and eco earth. The substrate should be kept moist, but not waterlogged.

Climbing Structures:

Provide plenty of branches, vines, and other climbing structures. Live or artificial plants can be added to create a more naturalistic environment.

Temperature:

Basking Area: Maintain a basking spot temperature of 35°C.

Cool Side: Keep the cool side of the enclosure around 24-30°C.

Night time Drop: Allow for a night time temperature drop to around 22°C.

Lighting:

Use a UVB light of around 6-12% to provide the necessary ultraviolet rays for proper calcium metabolism.

A 12-hour day cycle should be provided.

Diet:

Asian Water Monitors are carnivores, and their diet consists mainly of gut-loaded insects. They can also feed on small mice provided they are large enough. Additionally, supplement their diet with calcium and multivitamin powder.



Hydration:

Ensure a constant supply of clean, chlorine-free water. Mist the enclosure regularly to maintain humidity levels to 60-70%. Asian Water Monitors will drink from droplets created through misting however, water bowls can be provided to aid shedding, humidity and enrichment.

Handling:

While these lizards can tolerate handling, it's important to approach them calmly and avoid sudden movements. Allow the lizard to initiate contact, and be mindful of their stress levels. Limit handling to minimise stress and provide a secure environment within the enclosure.

Health Monitoring:

Regularly check for signs of illness, such as changes in appetite, lethargy, or skin issues. Consult with a reptile veterinarian if you notice any abnormalities.

By providing a well-designed habitat and proper care, you can ensure the health and well-being of your Asian Water Monitor.