



## **Bloodsucker Lizard Care Sheet:**

**Species Name:**

*Calotes versicolor*

**Adult size:**

35cm

**Lifespan:**

10-15 Years

**Breeding age:**

2 Years



Bloodsucker lizards are small reptiles native to Southeast Asia. Despite their ominous name, they primarily feed on insects, small invertebrates, and fruits, with no inclination towards blood consumption. These lizards are often found in forested areas, where they inhabit leaf litter and low vegetation. Their slender bodies and agile movements aid in navigating their environment. Bloodsucker lizards are oviparous, laying eggs in moist soil or leaf litter. While not commonly kept in captivity, they can thrive in suitable enclosures with ample hiding spots and a varied diet, making them intriguing subjects for reptile enthusiasts.

## **Enclosure:**

Size: A spacious enclosure is essential. For a single adult Bloodsucker lizard, a minimum enclosure size of 48"x24"x48" is recommended. A larger enclosure with vertical height as well is even better.

Substrate: this is a very adaptable species, most substrates can be used in the vivarium however a soil/sand mix is best.

## **Temperature:**

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

Ambient Temperature: Maintain an ambient temperature in the enclosure between 24-29°C during the day and no lower than 21-24°C at night.

## **Humidity:**

Maintain a humidity level of 60-80%. This can be achieved by lightly misting the enclosure regularly and providing a shallow water dish.

## **Lighting:**

Use a full-spectrum UVB light of 6-10% to allow proper calcium metabolism. Provide a 12-hour light and 12-hour dark cycle to mimic natural daylight.

## **Diet:**

Bloodsucker lizards are primarily insectivores however they will consume some plant matter.

**Insects:** Crickets, mealworms, waxworms, and roaches.

**Vegetables:** Dark, leafy greens (collard greens, mustard greens), and a variety of other vegetables (carrots, squash).

Supplement food regularly with a calcium or vitamin dust to ensure you reptile is getting the correct nutrients.



## **Behaviour and Enrichment:**

**Climbing:** Provide branches and perches for climbing to mimic their natural behaviour.

**Hide spots:** Include hiding spots within the enclosure to allow the dragon to retreat and feel secure.

## **Handling:**

Handle your bloodsucker lizard gently and regularly to build trust. Support their body when handling to avoid stress or injury.

## **Health:**

**Health checks:** If you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance, seek professional advice promptly.

**Cleanliness:** Clean and disinfect the enclosure regularly, removing faeces and uneaten food promptly to maintain a healthy environment.

Remember, understanding and replicating the natural environment of the bloodsucker lizard is crucial for their well-being. Always conduct further research and consult with experienced reptile keepers or veterinarians for the best care practices.