



Blue Tree Monitor Care Sheet

Species Name:

Varanus macraei

Adult size:

Around 3 ft

Lifespan:

10-15 Years



The blue tree monitor (*Varanus macraei*) is a striking species of lizard native to the island of Batanta in Indonesia. It is known for its vivid blue colouration, which sets it apart from other tree-dwelling monitors. Blue tree monitors typically grow up to 3 feet in length, with long tails that help them balance while climbing. Their agile, slender bodies and sharp claws make them excellent climbers, well-adapted to their arboreal habitat in tropical forests.

These lizards are carnivorous, feeding on insects, small mammals, birds, and occasionally eggs. They are known for their intelligence and are highly active, using their strong sense of smell and keen vision to hunt.

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Enclosure:

Terrarium Size: A vertically oriented enclosure is essential to mimic the lizard's arboreal habitat. A 86.2 x 49 x 91.5cm terrarium/vivarium is suitable for a single lizard, but larger enclosures are recommended for the most comfort.

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 29-32°C.

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

Night time Drop: Allow for a nighttime 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:

Blue Tree 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 70-80%. Blue Tree 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 Blue Tree Monitor.