



Bosc Monitor Care Sheet

Species Name:

Varanus exanthematicus

Adult Size:

1 Meter

Lifespan:

10-15 Years

Breeding Age:

18 Months



The Bosc monitor, also known as the Savannah monitor, is a formidable lizard native to the savannas and grasslands of Africa. With a robust build and distinctive forked tongue, they are skilled predators, preying on insects and small mammals. Their striking appearance, characterized by banded patterns and powerful limbs, makes them a sought-after species in the reptile trade. Despite their intimidating size, Bosc monitors can form strong bonds with experienced keepers, displaying intelligence and curiosity. However, they require spacious enclosures, high temperatures, and a varied diet to thrive in captivity. Proper care ensures these impressive lizards lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Housing:

Enclosure: Provide a spacious enclosure with a minimum size of 4ft as a juvenile, as they reach adulthood your monitor will quickly require a vivarium with more space, ideally 5-6ft.

Substrate: Dry substrates such as sand can be used to mimic the dragon's natural environment, always use reptile safe sand, ingestion of sand can cause impaction, most reptile sands are designed to be digestible in small amounts.

Temperature:

Maintain a basking spot temperature of 32-38°C.

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 29-32°C.

Use a heat source like a basking light and a heat mat for heating.

Night time temperatures can drop to 26°C.

Lighting:

Provide a UVB light source (6-12%) for at least 10-12 hours a day to support calcium metabolism and overall health.

Diet:

Feeding: Offer a varied diet of insects (crickets, roaches, mealworms) and rodents.

Supplements: Dust insects with calcium and vitamin supplements 2-3 times a week.



Humidity and Hydration:

A humidity of 50-60% should be maintained.

Provide a dish for drinking and bathing. Mist enclosure occasionally to maintain humidity.

Enrichment and Handling:

Place hiding spots, rocks, and branches for climbing to create a stimulating environment.

Provide a secure hide for them to retreat and feel safe.

Handle and interact with your Bosc Monitor gently and regularly to foster trust, but be mindful of their stress levels.

Health Considerations:

Regularly monitor for signs of illness, such as lethargy, changes in appetite, or difficulty shedding.

Quarantine new reptiles before introducing them to existing enclosures.

Remember that the care requirements for Bosc Monitors may vary slightly based on individual needs, so observe your dragon's behaviour and make adjustments accordingly. Always prioritize the well-being and health of your pet by providing a well-maintained and enriched environment.