



Butterfly Agama Care Sheet

Species Name:

Leiolepis belliana

Adult Size:

30-38cm

Lifespan:

8-10 Years

Breeding Age:

2 Years



The butterfly agama (*Leiolepis belliana*), also known as the butterfly lizard, is a striking reptile native to Southeast Asia, particularly in Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia. These diurnal lizards inhabit open, sandy areas and grasslands, showcasing vibrant green, orange, and blue patterns, especially on their sides and tails, used for communication and mating displays. Reaching up to 30 centimetres in length, they are omnivorous, feeding on insects, small invertebrates, and vegetation. Known for their burrowing behaviour, butterfly agamas create elaborate tunnels for shelter and egg-laying. Social by nature, they often bask in groups under the sun.

Housing:

Enclosure: Provide a spacious enclosure with a minimum size of 3-4ft to allow your agama to manoeuvre around the vivarium and exercise.

Substrate: Dry substrates such as sand or reptile carpet can be used to mimic the agamas 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 35-37°C.

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 26-29°C.

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

Night time temperatures can drop to 23-25°C.

Lighting:

Provide a UVB light source (10-12%) 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), leafy greens, and vegetables.

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



Humidity and Hydration:

A humidity of 30-50% should be maintained.

Provide a shallow dish for drinking water and bathing. Mist the enclosure occasionally to maintain humidity levels and aid in shedding.

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 your agama 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 Butterfly Agamas may vary slightly based on individual needs, so observe your reptiles behaviour and make adjustments accordingly. Always prioritize the well-being and health of your pet by providing a well-maintained and enriched environment.