



Chinese Water Dragon Care Sheet:

Species Name:

Physignathus cocincinus

Adult size:

~3feet

Lifespan:

10-15 Years

Breeding age:

2 Years



Chinese Water Dragons are native to the rainforests and tropical forests of Southeast Asia, including parts of China, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia. They are semi-arboreal and spend a significant amount of time near water, such as streams, rivers, and ponds. In the wild, they are known for their excellent climbing abilities and can often be found basking on branches overhanging water.

Chinese Water Dragons have a distinctive appearance with long, slender bodies, crests along their back and tail, and a pronounced throat pouch. Their coloration varies, but they typically have shades of green, turquoise, and brown, providing effective camouflage in their natural habitat. They are known for their intelligence and can become quite tame with regular, gentle handling.

Enclosure:

Size: A spacious enclosure is essential. For a single adult Chinese Water Dragon, a minimum enclosure size of 48"x24"x48" is recommended. A larger enclosure is even better.

Substrate: Use a substrate that retains moisture well, such as coconut coir or cypress mulch. This helps maintain humidity levels.

Temperature:

Basking Area: Provide a basking spot with a temperature of 31-35°C.

Ambient Temperature: Maintain an ambient temperature in the enclosure between 27-29°C during the day and no lower than 24°C at night.

Humidity:

Maintain a humidity level of 60-80%. This can be achieved by 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:

Chinese Water Dragons are omnivores with a diet consisting of:

Insects: Crickets, mealworms, waxworms, and roaches.

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

Fruits: Offer fruits such as berries, mango, and papaya in moderation.



Behaviour and Enrichment:

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

Swimming: Create a shallow water dish large enough for the dragon to soak and swim.

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

Handling:

Handle your Chinese Water Dragon 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 Chinese water dragon is crucial for their well-being. Always conduct further research and consult with experienced reptile keepers or veterinarians for the best care practices.