



## Desert Agama Care Sheet

**Species Name:**

*Trapelus mutabilis*

**Adult Size:**

25-30cm

**Lifespan:**

7-10 Years

**Breeding Age:**

18 Months



The desert agama (*Trapelus mutabilis*) is a small lizard found in arid regions of North Africa and the Middle East. It thrives in deserts, steppes, and semi-desert environments. Recognisable by its robust body, short limbs, and a tail that is longer than its body, this reptile can change colour to blend with its surroundings, aiding in camouflage. Males are known for their striking blue heads during the breeding season. Desert agamas are diurnal, primarily feeding on insects and plants. Their ability to withstand high temperatures and scarcity of water makes them well-adapted to harsh desert climates.

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## Housing:

**Enclosure:** Provide a spacious enclosure with a minimum size of 3ft 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 lizards 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 38-40°C.

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 27-29°C.

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

Night time temperatures can drop to 16-23°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.



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### **Humidity and Hydration:**

A humidity of 30-40% should be maintained.

Provide a shallow dish for drinking water. 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 Desert 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 Desert Agamas may vary slightly based on individual needs, so observe your lizard's behaviour and make adjustments accordingly. Always prioritise the well-being and health of your pet by providing a well-maintained and enriched environment.