



Care Sheet for Eastern Collared Lizard

Species name:

Crotaphytus collaris

Adult size:

10-14 Inches

Lifespan:

10-14 Years

Breeding age:

1.5-2 Years



The Eastern Collared Lizard, is a species native to the southwestern United States. They are commonly found in semi-arid regions, favouring rocky outcrops, desert grasslands, and sandy areas. These diurnal lizards are well-adapted to their environment, utilizing their speed and agility to navigate rocky terrain and escape predators. The name "collared" comes from the distinctive band around their neck, which can be raised during displays of aggression or courtship.

Housing:

Enclosure: Provide a spacious and secure enclosure, preferably a terrarium with dimensions of at least 36 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 36 inches tall for a single adult lizard. Ensure proper ventilation.

Substrate: Use a substrate such as a reptile sand or a blend of sand and coconut coir to mimic their natural habitat. Ensure it is deep enough for burrowing.

Temperature:

Maintain a basking spot temperature of 35-38°C during the day and a cooler area around 24-27°C. The temperature can drop down to 21°C at night. Use heat lamps and a thermostat to regulate temperatures.

Lighting:

Provide a UVB light source of 10-12% to help with calcium metabolism and overall health. Provide a photoperiod of 12-14 hours of light per day, mimicking natural daylight.

Feeding:

Diet: Offer a varied diet consisting mainly of appropriately-sized insects such as crickets, mealworms, and dubia roaches.

Additionally, provide occasional treats like small vertebrates (appropriately sized mice) and a variety of vegetables. Dust insects with a calcium supplement before feeding.

Feeding Schedule: Feed adults every 2-3 days, adjusting portion sizes based on the individual's size and activity level. Juveniles may require daily feedings.



Hydration:

Water Bowl: Provide a shallow, sturdy water bowl for drinking and soaking. Change the water regularly to ensure cleanliness.

Humidity: Collared lizards are best suited to low humidity levels to mimic their arid natural environments. A humidity of 20-30% is recommended.

Misting: Lightly mist the enclosure to maintain humidity levels. Eastern Collared Lizards are adapted to arid conditions, but they still benefit from periodic moisture.

Enrichment:

Climbing Structures: Include rocks, branches, and other structures for climbing and basking.

Hideouts: Provide hiding spots using rocks or commercial hides to give the lizard a sense of security.

Handling:

Gentle Approach: Allow the lizard to acclimate to its new environment before handling. When handling, do so gently and avoid sudden movements.

Frequency: Limit handling to prevent stress, aiming for short sessions a few times a week.

Health Care:

Health Checks: Regularly observe your Collared Lizard to see if you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance. If something does not seem right seek professional advice promptly.

Hygiene: Keep the enclosure clean, removing waste and uneaten food promptly.

Quarantine: Quarantine new lizards before introducing them to existing ones to prevent the spread of disease.

Remember, the information provided here is a general guideline. Always research and consider the specific needs of your Eastern Collared Lizard, and consult with a veterinarian experienced in reptile care for personalized advice.