



Green Basilisk Care Sheet:

Species Name:

Basiliscus plumifrons

Adult size:

75-80cm

Lifespan:

7-10 Years

Breeding age:

2 Years



Green basilisk lizards, also known as plumed basilisks or Jesus Christ lizards, are remarkable reptiles native to Central America's rainforests. These bright green lizards can grow up to 2-3 feet long, including their long tail. Males are distinguished by prominent crests on their head, back, and tail, while females have smaller crests. Green basilisks are famous for their ability to run on water, sprinting up to 5 feet per second across the surface when threatened. This unique skill, achieved through specialized toe structures and rapid leg movements, has earned them their biblical nickname. These lizards are omnivores, feeding on plants, insects, fruits, and small vertebrates. They are excellent swimmers and climbers, spending much of their time in trees near water bodies. Green basilisks reproduce by laying eggs, with females depositing up to 20 eggs in shallow trenches.

Enclosure:

Size: A spacious enclosure is essential. For a single adult Green Basilisk, 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 35-38°C.

Ambient Temperature: Maintain an ambient temperature in the enclosure between 26-27°C during the day and no lower than 24°C at night.

Humidity:

Maintain a humidity level of 60-70%. 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:

Green Basilisks 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 lizard to soak and swim.

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

Handling:

Handle your Green Basilisk 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 Green Basilisk is crucial for their well-being. Always conduct further research and consult with experienced reptile keepers or veterinarians for the best care practices.