



Green Tree Monitor Care Sheet

Species Name:

Varanus prasinus

Adult size:

Around 3 ft

Lifespan:

10-15 Years



The green tree monitor (*Varanus prasinus*) is a striking arboreal lizard native to the forests of New Guinea, nearby islands, and the Cape York Peninsula in Australia. Recognisable by its vibrant green scales and elongated, slender body, it adapts perfectly to life among the trees. This monitor reaches lengths of up to 3 feet, including its prehensile tail, which aids in climbing. It has sharp claws and a long, forked tongue used for sensing its environment. Diet primarily consists of insects, small mammals, birds, and eggs. In the wild, they are elusive and primarily solitary, although they may be found in pairs or small groups during breeding season.

Enclosure:

Terrarium Size: A vertically oriented enclosure is essential to mimic the lizard's arboreal habitat. A 86.2 x 49 x 91.5cm terrarium/vivarium is suitable for a single lizard, but larger enclosures are recommended for the most comfort.

Substrate:

Use a substrate that retains humidity, such as coconut coir or a mixture of sphagnum moss and eco earth. The substrate should be kept moist, but not waterlogged.

Climbing Structures:

Provide plenty of branches, vines, and other climbing structures. Live or artificial plants can be added to create a more naturalistic environment.

Temperature:

Basking Area: Maintain a basking spot temperature of 29-32°C.

Cool Side: Keep the cool side of the enclosure around 24-30°C.

Night time Drop: Allow for a nighttime temperature drop to around 22°C.

Lighting:

Use a UVB light of around 6-12% to provide the necessary ultraviolet rays for proper calcium metabolism.

A 12-hour day cycle should be provided.

Diet:

Green Tree Monitors are carnivores, and their diet consists mainly of gut-loaded insects. They can also feed on small mice provided they are large enough. Additionally, supplement their diet with calcium and multivitamin powder.



Hydration:

Ensure a constant supply of clean, chlorine-free water. Mist the enclosure regularly to maintain humidity levels to 70-80%. Green Tree Monitors will drink from droplets created through misting however, water bowls can be provided to aid shedding, humidity and enrichment.

Handling:

While these lizards can tolerate handling, it's important to approach them calmly and avoid sudden movements. Allow the lizard to initiate contact, and be mindful of their stress levels. Limit handling to minimise stress and provide a secure environment within the enclosure.

Health Monitoring:

Regularly check for signs of illness, such as changes in appetite, lethargy, or skin issues. Consult with a reptile veterinarian if you notice any abnormalities.

By providing a well-designed habitat and proper care, you can ensure the health and well-being of your Green Tree Monitor.