



## **Northern Water Dragon Care Sheet:**

**Species Name:**

*Tropicagama temporalis*

**Adult size:**

90cm+

**Lifespan:**

10-15 Years

**Breeding age:**

2 Years



The northern water dragon is a semi-aquatic reptile indigenous to eastern Australia. With a sleek, elongated body and a distinctive crest of spines along its neck and back, it is well-adapted for life both in and out of the water. Known for its excellent swimming abilities, the northern water dragon primarily inhabits freshwater habitats such as streams, rivers, and ponds. It feeds on a varied diet of insects, small vertebrates, and aquatic plants. In captivity, they require spacious enclosures with access to water for swimming and basking spots for thermoregulation. Regular misting maintains humidity levels essential for their health.

## **Enclosure:**

**Size:** A spacious enclosure is essential. For a single adult Northern Water Dragon, a minimum enclosure size of 48"x24"x48" is recommended. A larger enclosure with more vertical space is better for this arboreal species.

**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°C.

**Ambient Temperature:** Maintain an ambient temperature in the enclosure between 24-28°C during the day and no lower than 22°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:**

Northern 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).

Supplement food with a calcium or vitamin dust several times a week.



## **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 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 Northern 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.