



Ocellated Uromastyx Care Sheet

Species Name:

Uromastyx ocellata

Adult Size:

28cm

Lifespan:

25 Years

Breeding Age:

3 Years



The Ocellated Uromastyx (*Uromastyx ocellata*), a fascinating lizard species native to arid regions of East Africa, is known for its distinctive, colourful appearance and unique adaptations. Characterised by a stout body, robust legs, and a spiky tail, it showcases a vibrant mix of greens, yellows, and blues, with ocellated (eye-like) spots across its back. These lizards are herbivores, primarily consuming leaves, seeds, and flowers, and have evolved to thrive in hot, dry environments by minimising water loss. They are diurnal and sun-loving, often basking to regulate their body temperature, making them a striking, resilient addition to desert ecosystems.

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Housing:

Enclosure: Provide a spacious and well-ventilated enclosure with a secure lid. A glass or wooden terrarium with dimensions of at least 4 feet (length) x 2 feet (width) x 2 feet (height) is recommended for a single adult.

Substrate: Use a substrate such as a 50/50 mix of play sand and organic topsoil to mimic the lizard's natural environment. The substrate should be deep enough to allow for natural digging behaviour.

Hide: Include multiple hiding spots such as rocks or artificial caves to allow the Uromastyx to retreat and feel secure.

Temperature and Lighting:

Temperature Gradient: Maintain a basking spot temperature of around 43-49°C on one side of the enclosure and a cooler side with temperatures around 29-32°C.

Night-time Temperature: Provide a night-time temperature drop to around 23-24°C to simulate natural temperature fluctuations.

UVB Lighting: Use a UVB light source of 10-12% to enable the synthesis of vitamin D3, essential for calcium metabolism. Provide a 12-hour day/night light cycle.

Diet:

Herbivorous Diet: Ocellated Uromastyx are strict herbivores. Offer a variety of dark, leafy greens, vegetables, and fruits. Mustard greens, dandelion greens, collard greens, and bell peppers are suitable options.

Calcium Supplementation: Dust food items with a calcium supplement containing vitamin D3 twice a week to ensure proper calcium absorption.

Water: Provide a shallow dish of fresh water for drinking. However, Uromastyx obtain most of their water from their diet, and excessive water may lead to health issues.



Health and Handling:

Regular Check-ups: Monitor your Uromastyx for signs of illness, including changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance. Seek veterinary attention if any concerns arise.

Limited Handling: While Uromastyx may tolerate handling, they are generally not as social as some other reptiles. Minimise handling to reduce stress.

Enrichment:

Basking Opportunities: Provide multiple basking spots at different heights with rocks or platforms for climbing.

Burrowing Substrate: Allow for burrowing behaviour by providing a deep substrate layer.

Environmental Enrichment: Use various objects like rocks, branches, and artificial plants to create a stimulating environment.

General Tips:

Quarantine: Quarantine new additions to prevent the spread of potential diseases.

Cleanliness: Regularly clean and spot-clean the enclosure to maintain hygiene.

Research: Stay informed about the specific needs and behaviours of Ocellated Uromastyx to ensure their well-being.

Remember that individual Uromastyx may have unique preferences, and adjustments to care may be needed based on their behaviour and health. Always consult with a reptile veterinarian for personalised advice.