



Rankin's Dragon Care Sheet

Species Name:

Pogona henrylawsoni

Adult Size:

10-12 Inches

Lifespan:

6-10 Years

Breeding Age:

18 Months



Rankin's Dragons, also known as the Lawson's Dragon or Dwarf Bearded Dragon, are native to the arid regions of Australia. These small reptiles belong to the Agamidae family and share similarities with their larger relative, the Central Bearded Dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*). Rankin's Dragons inhabit rocky outcrops, grasslands, and arid desert regions, where they bask in the sun and retreat to crevices for shelter.

In the wild, these dragons are opportunistic omnivores, feeding on a variety of insects, vegetation, and occasionally small vertebrates. Their ability to regulate body temperature by basking and their distinctive beard, which can be expanded for communication or thermoregulation, are notable features.

Housing:

Enclosure: Provide a spacious enclosure with a minimum size of 36 inches in length by 24 inches in width by 24 inches in height for an adult Rankin's Dragon. Ensure good ventilation while maintaining a secure environment.

Substrate: Use a substrate such as reptile carpet, or a mix of topsoil and sand for easy cleaning. Avoid loose substrates like sand, as ingestion can lead to impaction.

Temperature:

Maintain a basking spot temperature of 38-43°C.

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 27-29°C.

Use a heat source like a basking light and a heat mat for heating.

Night time temperatures can drop to 21-22°C.

Lighting:

Provide a UVB light source (10-12%) for at least 10-12 hours a day to support calcium metabolism and overall health.

Diet:

Feeding: Offer a varied diet of insects (crickets, roaches, mealworms), leafy greens, and vegetables.

Supplements: Dust insects with calcium and vitamin supplements 2-3 times a week.



Humidity and Hydration:

A humidity of 30-40% should be maintained.

Provide a shallow dish for drinking water. Mist the enclosure occasionally to maintain humidity levels and aid in shedding.

Enrichment and Handling:

Place hiding spots, rocks, and branches for climbing to create a stimulating environment.

Provide a secure hide for them to retreat and feel safe.

Handle your Rankin's Dragon gently and regularly to foster trust, but be mindful of their stress levels.

Health Considerations:

Regularly monitor for signs of illness, such as lethargy, changes in appetite, or difficulty shedding.

Quarantine new reptiles before introducing them to existing enclosures.

Remember that the care requirements for Rankin's Dragons may vary slightly based on individual needs, so observe your dragon's behaviour and make adjustments accordingly. Always prioritize the well-being and health of your pet by providing a well-maintained and enriched environment.