



Sailfin Dragon Care Sheet:

Species Name:

Hydrosaurus celebensis

Adult size:

1m+

Lifespan:

10-15 Years

Breeding age:

2 Years



The Sulawesi Giant Sailfin Dragon, *Hydrosaurus microlophus*, is a large species of sailfin dragon native to the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. Adults can reach lengths of up to 3 feet, making them one of the largest species of sailfin dragons. They are characterized by their tall dorsal crest that stretches from their heads to their tails, and their black coloration on the head, neck, gular region, and shoulders. The dorsal crest is continuous, and there is a group of dirty white enlarged flat scales on the anterior part of the dorsum. The dorsal coloration is typically yellowish, sometimes dark orange, interspersed with black spots, and the tail is black, sail black or dark violet with black stripes

These lizards are semiaquatic, spending a significant amount of time in the water. They are strong swimmers and use the water as a place to escape from predators. In the wild, they inhabit areas of heavy vegetation near coastlines and low-lying rivers, particularly in mangrove forests

Enclosure:

Size: A spacious enclosure is essential. For a single sub-adult sailfin dragon, a minimum enclosure size of 48"x24"x48" is recommended. A larger custom enclosure will be required when they begin to reach adult size.

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 32°C.

Ambient Temperature: Maintain an ambient temperature in the enclosure between 29-31°C during the day and no lower than 24°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:

Sailfins 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).

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