

Bearded Dragon Care

1. Nutrition

Feed these items **daily** in unlimited amounts:

Collard greens	Escarole	Green leaf lettuce	Red leaf lettuce	Carrot tops
Turnip greens	Kale	Mustard greens	Rabbit pellets	Romaine
Parsley	Dandelion greens			

Feed these items in **moderation**:

Bok choy	Endive	Red cabbage	Cilantro
Radicchio	Spinach		

Never feed these items:

Iceberg lettuce Lightening Bugs (**toxic- one bug can kill!**)

Feed gut-loaded pinhead crickets and cockroaches (gut loading needed at least 12-24 hours before feeding; provide commercial gut load formula, mixed leafy greens, and occasionally dog food) and tiny mealworms (gut loaded 3-5 days with mixed leafy greens).

Feed 2-3 times weekly about 5-10 crickets, cockroaches, and mealworms, depending on the size of the dragon. Phase in live pinky mice when the dragon is large enough to eat them.

Make sure you **never** give any food larger than the size of the bearded dragon's head.

Feed the dragons in a separate cage, or remove any leftover crickets after feeding, as the remaining crickets can attack the dragons if they are hungry.

2. Cage Setup

Minimum tank size is 40 gallon for a single dragon or 55 gallon for a pair.

Provide branches/shelves for climbing, a water dish large enough for soaking, and rocks in basking areas.

Cage bedding should be comprised of crushed limestone/calcium sand, newspaper/paper towels, alfalfa pellets (rabbit food), or reptile carpet (remove all frayed edges). **Never** use shavings or shredded barks

The basking/hot side of the tank should be 95-105° F. The cool side should be 75-85° F. Make sure to have thermometers on both sides of the tank. You can use an under-the-tank heater, ceramic heat element, or heat lamp to warm the environment, but avoid heat rocks as these easily cause burns.

Provide full spectrum UVA/UVB light bulbs. Vita-light brand, Zoo Med's Repti-sun UVB 5.0, ESU's Reptile Daylight and Fluker's Repti-sun are all good bulbs. Be sure to replace them every 6 months. **Never** place bulbs above glass or plastic, as glass blocks UV rays and plastic can melt if it becomes too hot (use a screen top for the cage to help with lighting and air circulation). You should leave the UV lights on for 12-14 hours a day and turn it off at night.

Remove feces daily, and clean entire cage weekly using an antibacterial soap or a 10% bleach solution and rinsed thoroughly.