

Petware House

Your Neighborhood Pet Store

Chinese Water Dragon

Physignathus cocincinus

CARE SHEET



Found in tropical rain forests, usually close to a water source. Water dragons are arboreal and need lots of space. They are capable of changing shades of colors between green and brown, depending on the temperature.

- Average Size** Hatchlings approximately 2-3 inches. Adults reach 40 inches in length.
- Life span** Up to 15 years with proper care.
- Feeding** Plants and insects. Crickets and waxworms dusted with calcium. Greens, peas in a pod, cauliflower, radishes, grapes, apples, bananas, strawberries and raspberries. Red fruits great for shy eaters. Remove excess food. Offer fruits only as a treat (never more than 1 out of 4 feedings).
- Housing** 40 gallon tank is minimum; the adults will need a 70+ gallon tank. Screen lid required for air exchange. There needs to be a large water bowl with airstone. A waterfall can be used to simulate the natural environment. NOTE: There should only be one animal per enclosure due to their large size.
- Maintenance** There are quite a few substrates that work especially well for dragons, and choosing one is a matter of personal preference for your animal's setup. Newspaper is the cheapest & easiest with regards to cleaning and disinfecting: out with the old, in with the new. Aspen bedding works very well, as it packs down, Coconut Husks being the ideal substrate and the dragons seem to enjoy it the most.
- Spot-clean** your dragons enclosure as necessary. When feces/urates/uneaten prey items are present, remove them as soon as possible. Clean & disinfect the water bowl on a weekly basis. Depending on cage conditions, remove all substrate & cage furniture and completely disinfect using a 5% bleach solution approximately every 30 days. Rinse the enclosure thoroughly and allow to dry before replacing cage furniture & your dragon.

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Temps During the day the temperature should be 75-85 degrees. Use a dome lamp to get the basking spot to be between 90-100 degrees. The nighttime temperature should be 75-80 degrees.

Humidity Humidity should be about 70%

Lighting Use a full spectrum UVB light; this will output good UV rays for calcium absorption so that it can digest its food better. The UVB light should be used for 12 hours of ultraviolet lighting. This can be maintained by using a timer.

Water & Accessories

Shallow dish of water. Water must be changed daily. If lizard is not seen drinking water mist enclosure. You should also use Coconut Husk as bedding with a small branch for when your dragon molts.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Babies and juveniles can become used to human interaction; as adults, some may become hard to handle and may bite. Keep males separately.