

Care & Information Sheet

Plated Lizards

Gerrhosaurus



Most Plated Lizards can become tame with daily handling. They originate from Eastern & Southern Africa. This Lizards most recognizable feature is their thick scales of skin that give them their name. The Plated Lizard spends most of its time on the ground while in the wild so you do not need to provide many branches for climbing. Be sure that you do give it plenty of places to hide though. The average adult size is 16-28 inches and with proper care and nutrition they can live 10 or more years.

Habitat

- Appropriate size tank with a secure cover. As the plated lizard grows, a larger habitat will be required. Allow enough space for it to be able to freely turn and move around in the habitat.
- This lizard requires only about 50% humidity.
- Daytime temperature should be: basking area 90 degrees F cool area 75 degrees F. Night temperatures should range between 70-75 degrees F. Use a reptile heat mat for 24-hour ground heat inside the vivarium.
- Use full spectrum 5% UVB lighting 12-14 hours per day.
- Supply several basking areas of logs, rocks. Provide hiding places (cork bark) for cover.
- Substrate: Fertilizer free potting soil with Orchid bark or beech chips deep enough to burrow in.
- Clean the tank at least once a week. Place the lizard in a secure habitat, scrub tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution, rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach, dry tank and furnishings and add clean substrate.

Food & Water

- Juvenile Plated Lizards should be fed insects on a daily basis. Since these lizards are omnivores you will also need to give them fresh greens to feed on.
- This Lizard eats both meat and vegetation. Crickets, locust, mealworms and waxworms and small pinkie mice. Dark greens, spinach, broccoli, carrots, turnips, dandelions (leaves & flowers), also green beans, sprouts, runner beans. For fruits mango, papaya, banana, strawberries and melon can be offered.
- Feed once a day. Food should be chopped or shredded, into small chunks and discarded if not consumed in 24 hours.
- Sprinkle food with a multi-vitamin/mineral supplement once or twice a week.
- Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water for drinking, changed daily.

Grooming and Hygiene

- Trim claws as needed.

Supplies

Habitat with Screen Lid	Full Spectrum Fluorescent Light	Thermometer
Substrate	Incandescent Light or Ceramic Heater	Humidity Gauge
Hiding Area & Basking Logs	Under Tank Heater	Misting Bottle
Water & Food Bowls	Vitamin & Mineral Supplement	Book about Plated Lizards

Health

Always wash your hands before and after handling your Plated Lizard and or the habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of disease.

You should consult with an exotic animal veterinarian if you observe any of the following conditions.

- Metabolic Bone/Vitamin Deficiency- Inability to absorb calcium due to insufficient UVB light. If untreated, can lead to a disorder characterized by deformities, softened bones, swollen limbs and lethargy. Provide ample UVB lighting
- Respiratory Disease - Labored breathing and mucus in the mouth or nose. Can be caused by a habitat that is too cold or damp. Ensure habitat is appropriately warm.

For information regarding plated lizards and disease, contact the Center for Disease Control <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets>

NOTE: The information contained in this document is for general reference only. Please consult a veterinarian for medical advice and concerns.

Sources: Herp Care Collection by Melissa Kaplan