

## Inland Bearded Dragon

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff



The Inland Bearded Dragon is the most common species of all Bearded Dragon pets. They tend to be mellow and docile, even in the wild. They respond fairly well to handling and enjoy spending time outside of their living environment. To pick up a Bearded Dragon, place your hand under its abdomen and gently scoop it up. As the dragon lays on your palm, gently curve your fingers around its abdomen. Although hatchlings and juveniles may be skittish, the adults will often enjoy human company, making a Bearded Dragon one of the better reptilian pets.

<b>Scientific Name:</b>	<i>Pogona vitticeps</i>
<b>Natural Environment:</b>	Arid woodlands and deserts of central Australia
<b>Average Size:</b>	Up to 2 feet (including tail)
<b>Average Life Span:</b>	Approximately 10 years
<b>Appearance:</b>	The body is tan to yellow in color. It's called "bearded" because of its ability to flare out the skin in the throat region when threatened or defending territory. There are spines on the throat, sides of the head, and sides of the body. The head is wedge-shaped. Its body has a flattened appearance and the tail is almost as long as the entire body. It's difficult to tell the difference between males and females among hatchlings and juveniles. When they become adults, sexual differences become more apparent. Males generally have larger heads and larger, darker beards.
<b>Habitat</b>	
<b>Size:</b>	A 55-60 gallon or larger glass aquarium is appropriate. Be sure to allow room for a large water dish.

- Lighting:** Fluorescent full-spectrum lighting with UVB.
- Temperature:** Provide a [basking lamp](#) for heat and a temperature gradient. Temperatures should range from 78-88°F during the day, 70-79°F at night and 95-100°F for basking.
- Housing:** It is critical that you make your terrarium as escape-proof as possible. A tight-fitting screen top helps provide ventilation. Supply [branches and logs](#) for climbing and basking. Include a food and water dish.
- Substrate:** Indoor/outdoor reptile carpets such as [Turtle Turf](#) or newspaper.
- Diet:** Bearded Dragons are omnivorous so they need a [balanced diet](#) of meat and vegetable matter. Feed items such as chopped meat, crickets, pinky mice, earthworms, leafy greens, and squash. Always provide fresh water.
- Behavior/Interaction:** In general, the Bearded Dragon is a social and very hardy pet if properly cared for. Since dragons are curious by nature, be sure to have a secure area of your home where you can handle them without fear of escape.



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