



Introduction Guide To The Care Of

Water Dragon

Scientific Name: Physignathus concincinus

Life Span: over 20 years

Size: over 90 cm

Appearance: Chinese Water Dragons are green, ranging from a dark to quite light green. Vertical slanted stripes of green or turquoise are found on the body. Their bellies are white or pale yellow, and their throats can be quite colorful (yellow, orange, peach). The long tail is narrow and banded with green and brown (and it is also a powerful weapon!). Adult males have larger heads than females, and develop larger crests on the back of the head and neck

Temperament and Handling: Chinese Water Dragon's make great pets and if bought from a young age can be tamed very easily and become very friendly. Even though they do have teeth that could draw blood, it is very unlikely for one to bite and will try to escape first.

If you do get an older dragon it pays to take things slowly and obtain their trust.

Housing: One of the downfalls to owning a Chinese Water Dragon is the size of the enclosure it will need at adulthood, it will need to be at least twice the length of the Chinese Water Dragon with plenty of height so the minimum size for a adult male would be 6' wide x 5' high and 2'-3' deep with branches for climbing and foliage for cover.

Heating and Lighting: You should be aiming for daytime temperatures of 28.9°C - 31.1°C (84 and 88°F), It is a good idea to have a digital thermometer at both the cool and warm end. Basking lights are appreciated by Chinese Water dragons, who like to bask under a hot heat source during the daytime. A suitable heat emitting bulb can be attached to the roof of the vivarium using a porcelain heat-resistant socket and is quite safe as long as a guard is fitted to ensure your dragon cannot come into contact with it. Some of these bulbs can provide both sufficient heat and light, so it is important to understand the capabilities of the bulb before using within the vivarium. Additional UVA/UVB lighting may not be required if the bulb you have chosen provides this full-spectrum light. All heat sources need to be controlled by a suitable thermostat and be protected by a guard. Heat bulbs usually work well on Dimmer stats, whilst Ceramic heaters require a Pulse Proportional stat. Some thermostats can be purchased that will automatically lower the temperature at night time, but these are usually a little more expensive to buy. On/off timers can also be purchased to control the hours of light, but this is a convenience device and not necessary for the safety of your Chinese Water dragon.



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Pets and reptiles

Humidity and Hydration: Chinese Water dragons do require high humidity at around 70-80%, this can be achieved by either manually spraying the enclosure 1-2 times a day or by using a misting system. Plants and moist substrate will also help as will having a light/heat source above a water bowl causing the water to evaporate. Having an hygrometer within the enclosure will allow you to monitor the humidity more accurately. Both digital and dial hygrometers are readily available online and from reptile specialist shops.

Feeding: The diet of a water dragon consists mainly of insects like locusts, crickets, roaches, mealworms, earthworms, wax worms etc. Some keepers like to feed feeder fish but these can carry internal parasites, so it is not recommended. Once your Chinese Water Dragon is big enough you can also offer pinky and fuzzy mice. It's best to dust your insects with a calcium/vitamin powder before feeding.

Some dragons will eat fruit and veg but most don't and the best way to get these into your dragon is to gut load your feeder insects. Fruit and veg you can try including green beans, kale, spinach, parsnips, figs, raspberries, cantaloupe, strawberries and blueberries, bananas etc, but try to stay away from citrus fruits.

Please note that this is only an introductory guide based on our opinions and experience, we advise you to continually research and learn as much as possible from as many sources as you can, every animal is different and new care and information is always being developed and found 😊