



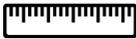
**Reptile
Systems**

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Water Dragon
Physignathus cocincinus

Distribution
Southeast Asia



Adult Size

90cm
(36 inches)



Life Span

10-15 years



Experience

Moderate



Handling

Can be handled



Natural habitat

The Water Dragons are typically found along banks of freshwater lakes and streams, they spend the majority of the time in the tress but are very good swimmers.

Housing

Water Dragons do best within a wooden but well ventilated vivarium because wood is an excellent insulator of heat and so a wooden vivarium will make it easier to control the crucial temperatures required inside the habitat. The minimum enclosure size would be 120 x 60 x 90 cm (48x24x36 inches) this allows sufficient length to allow for the creation of a temperature gradient. If you can provide a larger enclosure, then this will benefit your animal.



Heating

Water Dragons will need a temperature range of 29-37°C (80-95°F)



Basking spot maximum	Ambient daytime range	Ambient night-time range
35°C (95°F)	29-32°C (85-90°F)	29°C (80°F)

The basking and ambient temperatures are easily achieved using Reptile Systems Basking Spot Lamps in combination with a Reptile Systems Medium or Large Black Clamp lamp.

If additional night-time heat is needed this can be achieved using a Reptile Systems Ceramic Heat Emitter Lamps in combination with a Reptile Systems Medium or Large Black Clamp lamp.

Always ensure that heating products are run through a suitable dimming thermostat and ensure they correctly caged off so that your animal can not burn itself.

Lighting

Water Dragons fall between zone 2-3 in the Ferguson scale the require a UVI of 07-7.4 within their basking zone ranging down to zero in the cooler / shaded areas of the enclosure. The ideal photo period would be 12 hours with all the lights on and 12 hours with all the lights off.





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Water Dragon

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The recommended UVI range can easily be achieved using and Reptile Systems Zone 3 T5 / T8 Lamp when used with a reflector in combination with a Mercury Vapour Lamp. Please note Mercury Vapour lamps provide UVA, UVB and heat and can not be run through a thermostat.



Substrate



Water Dragons are rarely on the floor choosing to spend most of their time in the tree canopy but for a naturalistic enclosure a mix of sand and soil with the addition of orchid bark / cypress mulch and leaf litter to add interest and textures for your animal.

Water / humidity

Water Dragons should be provided with fresh water daily, in a large bowl with is heavy enough that your pet can not tip, if you can provide a pool this is preferable. Bearded Dragons require an ambient humidity of 80%.



Diet / Nutrition



Water Dragons are omnivores but will rarely seek out vegetation preferring to eat insects and should be offered a wide variety of insects. It is important to remember to gut load your insects prior to feeding this can be easily achieved using Reptile Systems Insect Food.

As Water Dragons are omnivores it is important that any live plants used within an enclosure are non-toxic and it is recommended that if you do find you have one partial to eating the plants they have access to a bowl of leafy greens / weeds / flowers. Reptile Systems Calcium Ultra should be used 3 times a week as a dust on either vegetation or insects and Reptile Systems Vit-a-min should be used twice a week as a dust on vegetation or insects (as a guide for adult animals).

Handling

Water Dragons can be handled. As babies they can be skittish but with patience and a little bit of work they can become tame. With any new reptile it is suggested that a 2 week settling in period is given in which handling does not take place. Handling should be limited to 20-30 minutes at a time, so your animal does not get too cold.



Suggested Reptile Systems Products

Medium / Large Black Clamp Lamp

Multi directional ceramic lamp fitting with reflector.

Basking Halo Spot

Provides UVA and heat.

Zone 3 T5 lamp

UVB fluorescent full spectrum lamp, requires a ballast unit.

Zone 3 T8 lamp

UVB fluorescent full spectrum lamp, requires a ballast unit.

Zone 3 Eco Unit

UVB fluorescent full spectrum lamp, reliable electronic controller, and reflector kit.

T8 Electronic Controller

Flicker free ballast unit for T8 lamps.

Proten New Dawn LED

LED light source to support live plants.

Ceramic Heat Emitter

Perfect for creating ambient heat with no light.

Reptile Systems Mercury Vapor

Provides a source of UVA, UVB and heat.