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## Uromastyx



Adequate temperature		
	Hot spot	Cold spot
Day temperature	40 °C	28 °C
Night temperature	22 °C	20 °C

### Main Features:

In the wild, the uromastyx has a burrow made of a gallery dug under a rock slab that has only one entrance. It can go down to 1 meter deep and is 2 meters wide. The temperature of the burrow is much lower than that of the outside. It is a lizard type desert and has a diurnal lifestyle. The uromastyx has a corpulent body and a broad head of ovoid shape. His claws are very pointed and his tail is short and thorny. It serves to defend against predators. The color of this reptile varies according to the species and its origin. In captivity, it lives on average 10 to 12 years and can reach 27 to 71 cm depending on the species. Uromastyx is relatively endangered in its natural state, so at your next adoption, make sure the animal is born in captivity.

### Captivity:

It is important to monitor the daily temperature using a thermometer purchased in a pet shop or hardware store. The humidity level (30-40%) and the temperature (see table above) should be carefully monitored. Moisture can also be controlled in this way. The UVA-UVB light exposure time can be controlled using a timer. To maintain the proper temperature, the use of a heating mat, out of the reach of the animal, can be used as well as a heat lamp not accessible for the latter. The carpet must be installed under the terrarium to avoid any direct contact. If the animal has access to the heating source, the risk of burns is very high. A reptile does not feel the heat on its skin, it is only once it is too late that it feels the wound. The presence of two hiding places is recommended, that is to say one of each side of the terrarium. The distance from UV neon should be about 30 cm (unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer). No glass or plastic should be placed between the neon and the lizard as this greatly reduces the amount of UV rays the lizard will absorb. A grass carpet or felt can be placed at the bottom of the terrarium. Be aware that the sand can be ingested and create a problem of intestinal blockage. As noted above, exposures between 10-12 hours per day to UVA-UVB neons is essential for tracking this species.



## **Food :**

The young uromastix is rather omnivorous. It can eat crickets, dandelion leaves containing no herbicide or insecticide and chicory. Adults are herbivorous, it is advisable to give a lot of vegetables on a daily basis such as green salad, a mixture of cabbage (in small quantities because of the high calcium content), carrots, alfalfa and commercial pellets for herbivores. Calcium and multivitamin supplements should also be given 1 to 2 times a week. A small bowl of shallow water is installed on the cold side, allowing the animal to drink.



## **Frequent health problems:**

- **Metabolic Bone Disease:** The lizard may suffer from anorexia, tremors, swelling around the bones, lethargy or bone malformations due to old fractures.
- **Infections:** Infections can occur in the mouth (stomatitis), on the skin (bacterial or fungal) or in the form of abscess. This condition is often the cause of poor nutrition, excess moisture or poor hygiene.
- **Parasites:** A lizard can sometimes catch parasites in many ways, such as having been outside, being in a boarding house or pet store or coming from their live food (mice, insects, etc.). If the animal is not treated following the appearance of parasites, it could become anemic and die. Parasites feed on your pet's blood, where they can find the nutrients they need for survival.
- **Moult problem:** A reptile moults several times a year. The moult consists of a change of skin. The animal grows up and the scales become too tight on it. He develops new scales and the old ones have to leave. A moult problem occurs when the degree of humidity is not adequate. If your pet has difficulty moulting, do not pull on the molt. Give it a bath of lukewarm water instead.
- **Cloacal Prolapse:** A cloacal prolapse is an externalization of part of the digestive system of your reptile. It is therefore possible to see part of the intestine of your reptile out its cloaca (opening that connects the anus and the reproductive system).

As with all animals, it is recommended that an examination be conducted after the purchase of a new reptile and an annual check is required. The annual exam helps prevent health problems that may occur and thus save the life of your pet. If in doubt, a visit to the veterinarian is required! A reptile, whatever it is, will hide its symptoms so as not to become an easy prey for predators (humans). At the slightest change in behavior, contact your veterinarian.

