Reptile Care Checklist

A general reptile care checklist covering enclosure, heating, UVB, humidity, diet and cleaning.

Research First

- [ ] Research the exact care requirements for your species
  Temperatures, lighting, humidity and diet differ greatly between reptiles
- [ ] Confirm adult size and enclosure needs before buying
- [ ] Find a reptile-experienced veterinarian in your area
- [ ] Check local laws and permits for the species

Enclosure Setup

- [ ] Choose an enclosure sized for the adult animal
- [ ] Use a substrate appropriate to the species
- [ ] Provide hides on both the warm and cool sides
- [ ] Add climbing branches, rocks or plants as suited
- [ ] Supply a clean water source sized for the reptile

Heating & Lighting

- [ ] Set up a heat source to create a warm-to-cool gradient
- [ ] Provide UVB lighting if the species requires it
- [ ] Use thermostats to control heating equipment
  Unregulated heat sources can burn reptiles
- [ ] Monitor warm- and cool-side temperatures with accurate gauges
- [ ] Replace UVB bulbs on schedule as output fades over time

Humidity & Environment

- [ ] Maintain the humidity range required for the species
- [ ] Monitor humidity with a hygrometer
- [ ] Mist or use a humid hide if needed for shedding
- [ ] Provide ventilation to prevent stagnant, moldy air
- [ ] Keep day-night light and temperature cycles consistent

Diet & Feeding

- [ ] Feed the correct diet and prey or plants for the species
- [ ] Follow an appropriate feeding schedule by age and size
- [ ] Dust feeder insects with calcium or supplements if advised
- [ ] Offer correctly sized, safe food items
- [ ] Remove uneaten live or fresh food promptly

Cleaning & Health

- [ ] Spot-clean waste and uneaten food daily

- [ ] Refresh and disinfect the water dish regularly
- [ ] Do a full substrate change and enclosure clean periodically
- [ ] Watch shedding, appetite, droppings and behavior
- [ ] Consult a reptile vet for any sign of illness