

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