



# Uromastyx at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Advanced**

Average lifespan: **15–20 years**

Average adult size: **30–36”**

Diet: **Herbivorous; mostly leafy greens and high-fiber plants**

Minimum habitat size: **40+ gallons for one**

Temperature: **Cool side 77–85 F; warm side 90–100 F; basking 115–125 F; nights above 65 F**

**Fun fact** ↻ Uromastyx enjoy digging and hiding in deep substrate.



## Enclosure Setup & Maintenance

- Provide a 40-gallon (or larger) terrarium with a secure mesh top. Larger enclosures are needed for multiple animals, but never house males together.
- Add diggable substrate and at least two hides—one on the warm side and one on the cool side. Include climbing branches and a basking area.
- Maintain a temperature gradient with a very hot basking spot and keep humidity low, around 20% for some species. Offer 10–12 hours of UVB light daily.
- Spot-clean the enclosure every day and wash dishes daily. Perform a full habitat cleaning weekly by removing the substrate, disinfecting with reptile-safe cleaner or diluted bleach, rinsing well, drying fully, and replacing décor before returning your pet.

## Supply Checklist

- Properly sized terrarium
- Substrate for digging
- Food and water dishes
- Climbing décor and hides
- Heat sources and UVB lighting
- Calcium and vitamin supplements
- Thermometers
- Humidity gauge



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## Diet

Uromastix are strict herbivores. Their diet should be 75–90% dark, leafy greens plus 5–10% other vegetables. Juveniles eat daily; adults eat four to five times per week.

Lightly dust food with calcium and vitamin supplements.

They get most of their water from food, but you may provide a water dish as a backup.



**Fun fact** ↻ They have bright, colorful scales.

## Health

Schedule yearly visits with a reptile veterinarian. A healthy uromastix is bright, alert, active, and has clean eyes, skin, and vent.

Contact a vet if you see stuck shed, swelling, eye issues, discharge, appetite loss, lethargy, refusal to bask, or unusual skin lesions.



**Fun fact** ↻

Uromastix are also called the spiny-tailed lizard. Their spiny tail helps deter predators.