

# Desert Spiny Lizard

*Sceloporus magister*

## CARE SHEET



[www.thetdi.com](http://www.thetdi.com)

**Average Size** 8 - 12 inches long

**Average Life Span** 8 – 10 years

**Diet** Desert Spiny Lizards are strict insectivores. Offer a variety of live insects including small crickets, small mealworms, small waxworms, and cockroach nymphs. Some lizards will eat store bought food such as freeze dried crickets and worms. Since this food source doesn't move, not all geckos will acknowledge its presence.

**Feeding** Feed babies and adults daily, although some keepers will feed adults every other day. Dust food with calcium powder daily & a multivitamin once a week. Feed them the amount they will eat in 10 minutes. Worms can be left in the food bowl.

**Housing** Desert Spiny Lizards may be kept alone or in pairs. Never house two males together in the same tank. Two females generally get along well. A male and female will likely breed if housed together.

**Size** - An adult must have a minimum cage size of 30" Long x 12" Deep x 12" High.

**Substrate** - Acceptable substrates are ground walnut shell, sand, or cage carpet. The main concern with walnut shell and sand is the possibility of impaction. If the lizard consumes large amounts of the substrate, it could cause intestinal blockage. Cage carpet is the safest option, however, it is difficult to clean easily. Ground walnut is the preferred substrate of The Tye-Dyed Iguana.

**Habitat** - Desert Spiny Lizard's are from the deserts of Arizona. The environment should be kept hot and dry. Provide hiding places along with flat basking surfaces.

**Temperature** - A Desert Spiny Lizard's basking spot should be 95° - 100° F. The cool end of the tank can be as cool as 70° F.

**Watering** - Provide a bowl of fresh drinking water at all times. Desert Spiny Lizards don't drink often, however providing a water bowl is recommended. Some keepers mist their lizards once to twice a week with a spray bottle.

**Lighting** - Since this is a diurnal species, it requires two light bulbs. One is the heat lamp which also emits UVA. The second is a UVB lamp. The UVB lamp will specifically say UVB on the box. If the box doesn't say UVB, its not UVB.

**Plant and Fish bulbs are not UVB bulbs.**