

# Savannah Monitor

*Varanus exanthematicus*

## CARE SHEET



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**Average Size** 3 - 4 feet long

**Average Life Span** 10 - 15 years

**Diet** Savannah Monitors are carnivores. Babies and juveniles will eat a variety of insects. Offer crickets, cockroaches, mealworms, waxworms, and superworms. Juveniles can eat pinkie and fuzzy mice. Adults will eat live or frozen rodents. For variety one can offer hard-boiled eggs and cooked lean meat such as chicken, turkey, and fish.

**Feeding** Feed babies and juveniles daily. Adults can eat leaner foods daily. Avoid feeding rodents daily as they are high in fat. Feed fattier foods 2-3 times a week. Dust food with calcium powder daily & a multivitamin once a week. Rodents don't require dusting.

**Housing** Savannah Monitors 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** - A baby must have a minimum cage size of 36" Long x 18" Deep x 16" High. An adult will require a full room roughly 8ft Long x 4ft Deep x 3ft High.

**Substrate** - Peat moss or coconut fiber are preferred substrates. A thick substrate is ideal as Savannahs love to dig and burrow. A baby should have 6 - 8 in of substrate. An adult will require 1 - 2 feet.

**Habitat** - Savannah Monitors are from Africa. They are found sub-Saharan areas north of the Congo River. They experience a monsoon season while the rest of the year is hot and dry. Provide plenty of hiding places on the ground.

**Temperature** - Savannah Monitors like serious heat. The basking spot should be around 120°F. The cool end of the tank can be as cool as 75°F.

**Watering** - Provide a bowl of fresh drinking water at all times. They should have a large enough pool of water to completely submerge their body. Savannahs also require moderate humidity. The enclosure should be misted once daily.

**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.**