



Desert Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus magister

Care Sheet

Average Size

8 - 12 inches long

Average Lifespan

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.

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

Habitat - Desert Spiny Lizards are from the deserts of Arizona. The environment should be kept hot and dry. Provide hiding places along with flat basking surfaces. Desert Spiny Lizards may be kept alone or in pairs. If housed together Desert Spiny Lizards should be of similar size to avoid injury. 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.

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.

Humidity - Some keepers mist their lizards once to twice a week with a spray bottle. Humidity levels should be between 30% - 50%.

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.

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, it's not UVB.

Plant and Fish bulbs are not UVB bulbs.



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