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Ornate Uromastyx

Uromastyx ornata

Care Sheet

Average Size

12 - 15 inches long

Average Lifespan

15+ years

Diet

Ornate Uromastyx are strict herbivores. Offer a variety of leafy vegetation including turnip greens, collard greens, mustard greens, and kale. Non-leafy vegetation includes yellow squash, snap peas, green beans, dandelions, and hibiscus. Fruit and insects are to be used on an extremely limited basis. A Uromastyx will readily eat insects, but the long-term effects on their kidneys are life threatening.

Never Feed Lettuce! It contains no nutrition, only water and cellulose.

Feeding

Feed babies daily. Adults should also eat daily, although they will likely eat less than a baby. Feed a mix of the above described vegetation. Dust food with calcium powder daily & a multivitamin once a week. Have enough food in the bowl that they can forage throughout the day.

Housing

Habitat - The Ornate Uromastyx is from Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Egypt. This part of the world is extremely hot and dry. Uros are ground dwellers and love to dig and hide. Provide plenty of hiding places along with flat basking surfaces. Uros may be kept alone or in pairs. If housed together Uros 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 36" Long x 18" Deep x 12" High, although many keepers prefer a larger cage.

Substrate - Uros love to dig and burrow. Since they come from the desert, ground walnut shell and sand are acceptable substrates. Provide 3-6 inches of substrate.

Temperature - A Uro's basking spot should be 120°- 130°F. The cool end of the tank can be as cool as 80°- 90°F.

Humidity - Humidity in the enclosure should remain below 35%.

Watering - The Ornate Uromastyx CAN NOT have a bowl of water. In fact, this region of Africa receives less than 1/4 inch of rain per year. Providing even a small water bowl will cause too much ambient humidity in the cage. This will ultimately lead to respiratory issues. The Uromastyx receives all its moisture from the food that it eats.

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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