



Frilled Dragon

Chlamydosaurus kingii

Frilled Dragons get their name from their ability to extend huge flaps of skin on their neck as aggressive/defensive displays, or to show off for females. They are large arboreal lizards from the northern coastal portion of Australia and the southern part of New Guinea. They are Agamids, like the Bearded Dragon. Frilled Dragons range in color from olive to grayish-brown to nearly all black. Their frills can range in color from yellow to orange to jet-black, along with spots of orange, red, and white. At maturity, they can reach a length of 30 inches from nose to tail. The body is about 10 inches in length. The frill can measure up to 14 inches across when fully extended.



Adult frilled dragons

Basic Care:

Habitat: An adult Frilled Dragon is far too large to house comfortably in a standard terrarium, so be prepared to purchase a custom terrarium or enclosure or to build one yourself. Dragons love to climb and are highly active lizards, and generally feel more secure when given an arboreal enclosure, with general measurements of 6 feet high by 3 feet wide by 4 feet long being ideal for a single or pair of large adults. These lizards are highly active, so keep this in mind when choosing a substrate for the enclosure. Loose substrates can be used, but generally will get kicked around and need to be cleaned often, so many keepers choose to use paper. Climbing branches are also a necessity for dragons to enjoy a rich arboreal and healthy life. Use branches that are of the same thickness as the lizard. A sturdy perch for basking should be offered to each lizard that live together, as well as a basking spot designed for each lizard. A large water dish should be supplied for these lizards, and cleaned often, as many frilled dragons will defecate in water.

Frilled Dragons need both UVA and UVB spectrum lighting to survive. Without UVB, these dragons (and many other reptiles) cannot produce vitamin D3, which is used to properly metabolize calcium. Lack of D3 can lead to a crippling disorder known as Metabolic Bone Disease. Proper amounts of UVB can only be obtained through natural sunlight (unfiltered), and a few select reptile specialty bulbs.

Basking temperature should be no higher than 95-100 degrees. The surrounding area within the cage should be around 84-88 degrees. Night time temperatures need to be kept in the lower to mid-70's.

Diet: Frilled dragons are not picky eaters, and will eat a lot! Adult dragons will easily eat 2-3 dozen crickets at a time. Food items for the frilled dragon consist of insects, arthropods, small fish, shrimp, ground turkey or chicken, small mammals, and cooked eggs. Both juveniles and adults should be fed every day, even if just small amounts.