

CARING FOR YOUR TIMOR MONITOR

Scientific Name: *Varanus timorensis*
Native to: *Indonesia*
Maximum Length: 2 feet.
Life Span: Up to 20 years



CHARACTERISTICS:

These beautiful monitors tend to be desired due to their smaller size, however it is important to note that these active lizards still require a large environment. They like to climb and also take the occasional soak. A large enough water bowl for them to fully submerge in is recommended. Unlike other monitors, Timor monitors are normally very docile and tame. The average size for these monitors when they are full grown is 2 to 2 1/2 feet. Its small size and docile nature have made it one of the most popular choices in pet monitors.

CARE TIPS:

Enclosure: A 15 or 20 gallon tank works well for a juvenile however, within a year your monitor will need larger accommodations. For an adult the enclosure should be a minimum of 4 x 2 and 3-4 feet tall. Be sure to select a terrarium with side ventilation ports. Proper ventilation is important. A properly ventilated terrarium allows natural airflow parallel to the substrate.

Substrate: Soil is the recommended substrate choice for your monitor. The substrate needs to be deep and packed tightly so it has maximum firmness. A depth of 1 to 2 feet is fine for general keeping needs.

Habitat: Timor monitors can have tree limbs in their housing to allow them to climb and bask. You should provide your monitor with places to hide.

Temperature and Lighting: The temperatures in their enclosure during the day should be keep around 85° F with a basking area of 120° F. Night temperature should range from 70 - 80° F. Timor monitors need 8-12 hours of light per day. Use a heat lamp and UVB-emitting bulbs during the day and a low wattage red bulb for night. Humidity levels should be around 45% - 50%. Use a heat lamp and UVB-emitting bulbs during the day and a low wattage red bulb for night.

Food and Water: Crickets, mealworms and roaches for juveniles. Older monitors can be offered cooked eggs and ground turkey as well as the occasional rodent. Dust insect food with calcium supplement and vitamin supplements. As a rule, a growing juvenile's food should be dusted more often than an adult's. Timor monitors love to spend a lot of time in the water. Be sure to provide a water dish large enough for the monitor to bathe, soak and swim. Lizards often defecate in their water, so be sure to change the container often. Mist the enclosure once or twice per day care should be taken not to allow the enclosure to become damp.