

## Green Iguana Care: Igllets (less than one year of age)

### I. Heat and UVB requirements.

#### A. Heating

1. A temperature gradient of 70-95 degrees Fahrenheit should be maintained with cooler areas of 70 in the shade and 95 at the basking spot. Multiple igllets housed in one enclosure require multiple basking spots.
2. No 'hot rocks' are to be used with green iguanas due to the risk of thermal burns.
3. Daytime temperatures can be maintained by use of regular incandescent bulbs or ceramic heat emitters (ceramic heat emitters require porcelain fixtures)
4. Nighttime temperatures can be maintained by use of black or red 'night lights' and/or human heating pad or reptile pad (**under** the enclosure or carpet substrate).
5. Green iguanas require a daytime/nighttime cycle: bright bulbs on during the day and black or red bulbs at night.

#### B. UVB

1. A UVB source is mandatory for all green iguanas and should be changed every 6-8 months.
2. The UVB source should be placed no further than 14 inches from iguana.

### II. Housing & Habitat

#### A. Space

1. Igllets require at least 10gallons (20 gallons preferred) of space per iglet to be maintained properly. As the iglet grows, more space is required (please see attached care sheet for adult green iguanas)
2. The enclosure should be tall enough to allow for climbing and free movement, as iguanas are tree dwellers in the wild.

#### B. Substrate

1. Indoor/outdoor carpeting, newspaper, tile or linoleum is preferred. Bark, pine, cedar or other wood chips should not be permitted as they are dangerous to the iguana's intestinal health (easily cause impactions and death).
2. Substrate should be cleaned or changed daily, or if housing multiple igllets, twice daily.

#### C. Decorations

1. Driftwood or other suitable climbing apparatuses should be present, allowing the igllets to regulate their body temperature by varying their distance from the heat source.
2. Artificial plants are not suggested as they are easily mistaken for food and can cause serious health problems.
3. It's suggested that when housing multiple igllets, decorations be kept at a minimum to allow the most space for the igllets to move about.

### III. Food and Feeding

#### A. Size of food

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1. Very small bite-sized pieces (no larger than the iglet's head) should be available to the iglet to prevent choking hazard (they do not chew their food).
- B. Types of food**
1. **Greens** (should be the bulk of the iglet's diet)
    - a. Suggested types: collard greens, mustard greens, dandelion greens, turnip greens, and arugula
    - b. Variety is important for the iglet a mix of the greens above helps to ensure nutritional needs and proper calcium phosphorus ratio is being met.
  2. **Fruits** (aid in digestion and bowel health)
    - a. suggested types: banana, mango, grapes berries and figs
  3. **Inappropriate foods**
    - a. Animal protein is not suitable for the green iguana and can cause irreversible damage to vital organs - this includes cat food, dog food, dairy and any other animal-based products.
- C. Water**
1. Iguanas are dew-lapping animals that require a supply of fresh water at all times.
  2. Misting greens with water prior to feeding aids in keeping iglets properly hydrated.
  3. Misting the iglets with a fine spray bottle several times a day helps maintain proper humidity, aids in shedding and helps maintain kidney health.

## Additional Resources

**NC Iguana Rescue Association** – [www.iguana-rescue.com](http://www.iguana-rescue.com)

**Melissa Kaplan's Herp & Iguana Care Information Collection** - a comprehensive source for iguana health, care and diseases - [www.anapsid.org](http://www.anapsid.org)

**Anna's green iguana web site** - a great source of up-to-date information to help your iguana thrive! - [www.myiguana.com](http://www.myiguana.com)

**The Iguana Den** - iguana care & feeding; home of the IguanaDen diet - [www.iguanaden.com](http://www.iguanaden.com)