

Sunland Breeders

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The Rainbow Uromastyx's are known as one of the hardest species of Uromastyx's to care for and are not a beginner pet. They can be fickle, depressive, and don't take stress well. The most common problem everyone has with their Rainbow will be dehydration, and the second is that they can't get them to eat. So when looking for one, ask the person selling them if they have eaten seeds or grains, this usually shows a well-established Rainbow Uromastyx.

When you take your Rainbow home, try and stress him out as little as possible at first. I know it's hard, a new pet, you want to love him or her as much as possible, but this helps in the long run. Let your Rainbow get use to his new cage before you pull him out to play, at least give five days. But the real test is if he basks openly while you are in his line of sight.

Temperature:

Daytime: Your basking spot should be hitting 110F for at least 3-4 hours of the day. As long as you have that basking spot, their cool side can be at 80F. If the hot side of your cage doesn't reach 110F where your Uro can get to, put sticks and branches in the cage to get your Uromastyx closer to the heat, or you can add dark rocks that will absorb the heat and amplify it.

Nighttime: temperature should not dip below 70F.

An optimal day period for your uro is 13-14 hours with 10-11 hour night time periods.

UVB:

All Uromastyx species need UVB. Rainbow's need UVB or Calcium supplements. This can be achieved by Repti-sun 10.0, Power-suns 100 watts, or Repti Calcium with D3 powder (which can be tossed in their food).

Water/Humidity:

Humidity is one of the most controversial topics among Uromastyx keepers. What I will say, from personal experience, is that every subspecies of Uromastyx utilize water differently. The Rainbow Uromastyx, like I have stated, have the highest water needs. Even more so among females.

If you do give your Uromastyx a soak in warm water, dry off their tail with a towel before putting them back in their cage. Some keepers say you don't need to dry them off first, that the heat light will burn it all off, but it's an added safety net to prevent tail rot, or even tail softening, or bacterial infections.

When do Uromastyx look dehydrated? Some clues are pinched skin, sunken in eyes, and a hollow under tail.

A water dish in the cage can be an option if you can't soak your uromastyx, but place it on the cool to medium side of the cage so as not to create too much humidity. When you first get your Rainbow, I GREATLY suggest you bathe it every night in warm water, at least until you actually see your Rainbow drinking from the water dish. It might take a while for them to find the water and you don't want anything to happen in the meantime.

Cage:

A basic dimension for one Rainbow would be 3'x2'x2'. Anything bigger is suggested. Perfect cages for one, or for pairs, are 6'x3'x2'.

Substrate:

A lot of people think that because Uromastyx come from a hot and dry environment, they come from sandy areas. They don't. They prefer hard packed clay/sandy areas or rocky mountain faces. There are a lot of opinions on what bedding to use for your Uromastyx. You can use pine shavings, timothy-grass, paper towels, millet seed, and excavation clay/sand mixed with gravel. As stated above, Rainbows love to climb, so add in branches for them to play around on.

Food:

Grain: One of the following should be always available. I keep red Lentils readily available all of the time. You can also feed them split peas, quinoa (cooked), and millet.

Veggies: This should be offered every morning (hopefully before 11am). Endive, kale, red leaf, green leaf and romaine. NOT spinach. A good stimulant food, if your Uro looks slightly depressed, are flowers. I specifically feed a lot of dandelions and roses out.

Root Veggies: This is a topping for your veggies that are shredded, (every other day, or two days) a pile of this adds variety and good body weight. Yellow squash, banana squash, zucchini, yams, pumpkin, butternut squash or sun burst squash.

Rainbows can be hard, but they are well worth it. The Rainbows are one of the most beautiful species, displaying orange on top of their head and lower body, and various shades of blue or bluish-green across their shoulders and chin with chalky white spots or bands along their back. I have also found them to be very curious-- licking the air when you touch them, leaning into a scratch behind their ear or on the shoulder, and running up to you to see what you are doing or if you have food for them. I think they are worth the work, and if you ever have any questions, if your Uro is losing weight, or you just want to give us updates, feel free to talk to us at Sunland Breeders and we hope you enjoy your new family member.