

Sunland Breeders

P.O. box 6501
Burbank, CA 91510
(213)500-6621

Saharan Uromastyx

Uromastyx Geyri

Geyri's are currently one of the most commonly brought in species of Uromastyx in the pet trade. And it's easy to see why, with adult males becoming solid neon yellow, orange or red; and the females holding some of the males color, they are easily one of the most striking Uromastyx species in captivity.

HOUSING

For hatchlings (1-2 inches in body) an 18-inch long tank is perfect, it's small and confined and everything is in front of your babies face. Once your Geyri reaches juvenile status (about 3-4 inches in body) the only thing that would be changed would be the dimension of your cage. A juvenile can be placed in a 2'x2'x2', or anything bigger that you can supply your juvenile. Full grown adults, usually about 6 inches in body, should be placed in their permanent home, a 4'x2'x2'.

Substrate that is dry is preferred; e.g. aspen shavings, Timothy hay, Bermuda grass, and excavation sand. You don't want to use anything that's loose like commercial sands or loose dirt because it will get in their food, go in their mouth, and become ingested, which leads to intestine impactions and death if left untreated.

Geyri also need a basking spot, which can be amplified by dark stone or slate. Interestingly, Geyri are known climbers, so adding branches and height to the cage will add more areas for your Uromastyx to play in. Geyri's also love hides; one Geyri needs one hide, two Geyri need two and so forth as a minimum. Usually I recommend more than one hiding area, so that he may hide where it would be 100F, or he can hide where it is 80F. For any Uromastyx, having a thermometer or temp gun readily available is a must.

TEMPERATURE

Daytime: Your basking spot should reach 130F for at least 3-4 hours a day, as long as you have that basking spot, their cool side can be at 80F. The cool side should not be hotter than 85, so that your Uromastyx can choose to be cooler if their body needs it.

Nighttime: I wouldn't let your Geyri drop below 75F at night. This can be achieved by an under the tank heat pad, under their hide, or a natural moonlight bulb, or a ceramic heat emitter.

UVB

All Uromastyx need UVB. This can be achieved by ZooMed Reptisun 10.0 T5-HO, Power-suns 100 watts, or Arcadia T5 D3+ 12% UVB. All UVB lights should be no closer to the basking area than 12 inches.

FOOD

Grain: One of the following should be available daily in side dishes. I keep red Lentils readily available in their cage. 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, Dandelion greens, escarole and romaine. NOT spinach. And NO iceberg lettuce.

Root Veggies: This is an additional topping for your veggies that are usually shredded over them, (every two to three days). A pile of this adds variety to their meals. Yellow squash, banana squash, zucchini, yams or sun burst squash.

Flowers: Uromastyx go for color and scent. So if you have roses, dandelions, hibiscus, and many other edible flowers, go ahead and toss them in. This is usually like catnip for Uromastyx.

NOTE : 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. But we are here to talk about Geyri.

Most male Geyri can go their whole life without needing water dishes, nor being misted while in shed. If you notice him looking a little dehydrated and he is not in shed, then a bath can be administered for hydration purposes. If he is in shed, run the greens under water, shake them slightly, and the water droplets on the greens will hydrate him.

On the topic of shedding, I have found the exact opposite to be true with Uromastyx, than what any other lizard or snake care sheet requires. When I keep Uromastyx at relatively low humidity's, usually about 12%-18%, they shed faster.

How do I tell if my Uromastyx is dehydrated? Their eyes tend to be sunken in instead of sitting on their face. Their skin is a lot more pinched along the body, even though or if they are full. Their poop is very dry, and not just because its been sitting under a heat lamp all afternoon. A healthy poop is very well formed, but as moist as it can be. So, if the underside of your Uromastyx tail is dirty, and he has little logs scattered about, that's okay! It's a good sign. He's healthy.

Who needs to be hydrated even when they aren't showing the above signs? Babies. Pregnant females. Sick. And very, very old Uromastyx. All of their bodies are compromised in some way (except for the babies) so they can't properly hold and regulate that water.