

Egyptian Uromastyx

Uromastyx aegypticus

Egyptians are the largest species of Uromastyx, reaching 30 inches. Interacting with babies is important for safe handling in the future; a 2.5ft animal with a sharp tail can deal a lot of damage. As desert animals, *Uromastyx aegypticus* shouldn't have water dishes; in fact, a lot of bodily complications come from 30%+ humidity for Egyptians in prolonged situations**

Housing

Enclosures provided for baby Egyptian Uromastyx should be **5'Lx2'Wx2'H**. As an adult, you will be looking at an enclosure that is **8'Lx3'Wx3'H**. More space is desired for multiple animals.

These sizes are the minimum space required for Egyptians to thrive.

Egyptians are flat-land burrowers. Rocks *must* be affixed in an enclosure if they are used as burrows to prevent hazardous collapses. These lizards are strong, and they can shift all of their terrain to their own content. Substrate recommended for Egyptian Uromastyx is as follows:

Washed play sand	Fully-organic Soil
Clay, sand, and soil mixture	(Affixed) Slate Tile

Do Not use calci-sand and ground walnut shell. These are high-risk substrates, which cause a variety of short and long term damage to your animal. Known issues are impaction and abrasions. Most wood-based substrates are included on this *Not Recommended* list.

Temperature and Lighting

Daytime gradients are key when keeping Uromastyx. They thrive under such extreme temperatures. Artificially, this is established by having *Optimal Hot* and *Optimal Cool* areas during their photoperiod. That mean, the basking area has a surface temperature of 120°F, and the farthest corner from that basking area should read 70°F. Without this gradient, long-term and short-term complications arise.

Nighttime temperatures for Egyptians should not drop below 65°F.

Brumation should not be attempted unless by experienced keepers. Egyptians are unforgiving to sudden drops in temperature. Many complications can surface. There are no long-term studies indicating health issues coming about when one does not brumate their Egyptian Uromastyx. Brumation should be left to breeding situations.

Infrared Temperature Guns are very beneficial in keeping a healthy enclosure; they read the momentary surface and air temperatures. I highly recommend you invest in one.

UVB is vital to an Egyptian Uromastyx fitness and overall wellness. As with any baby Uromastyx, they metabolize UVB at a higher rate than adults, growing and building muscle mass. With a lack of UVB, we see MBD; which leads to deformation, cellular damage, tremors, and other internal organ weakness.

Arcadia D3 + 12% T5 HO florescent bulbs are recommended for Uromastyx.

Efficient use of these florescent bulbs from basking area should be at a distance from 12 inches, and are completely ineffective over 18 inches.

For the most efficient use of heat lights, bulbs should be set up in a way that fully bathes the basking area in even heat. *Do Not* have a very focused or small area heated. This causes burns. A 120°F basking area should be, per square inch, the size of your animal. (Think of ants under a magnifying glass)

Food List

Feeding should be done daily. Uromastyx are grazers, so while they have an active photoperiod, they will eat anytime throughout the day.

Their base diet is green vegetables.

Endive, escarole, dandelion greens, shredded cactus pads, baby kale, red leaf, green leaf, arugula and chicory leaf

Grain and seed is a great dry (or soaked) addition. These can be left weekly or bi-weekly.

Red lentils, split peas, millet, quinoa

Root veggies, shredded, will add variety into their diet. Usually, I feel these out two to three times a week.

Yellow squash, banana squash, zucchini, yams or sun burst squash

Flowers will make a Uromastyx your best friend. There is a very large variety of flowers that are non-toxic. You must be aware of the source of your flowers. Food-grade flowers are hard to find. They must be non-fertilized and fully organic. Runoff from contaminated water can leach pesticides into the flowers.

Dandelion Flowers, Hibiscus, Roses, Dendrobium Sp. of Orchid, Pansies, Carnations

Do Not feed spinach, parsley, chard or broccoli. *Do Not* feed fruit. *Do Not* feed animal based protein.

Supplementation needs to be a Calcium (1.5% per serving) + Vitamin D3 (3,000 IU/KG)

Repashy Grassland Grazers, Zoo Med Repti Calcium *with* D3

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. But we are here to talk about Egyptians.

Healthy Egyptians do not need water. *Do Not* mist or soak an Egyptian in shed.

As Egyptian Uromastyx age, they are unable to retain the levels of water both intracellular and extracellular that they could in their prime (once they hit 15+ years old). Being aware of this, making sure their diet has a higher concentration of water, leads to happy and healthy animals.