

## Ocellated Uromastyx

*Uromastyx ocellata*

Ocellateds are a beautiful species of Uromastyx, displaying deep blues and greens along their flanks with red and orange down their spine. They are a medium size. Female adults can grow to 12 inches, while males tend to stay shorter. As desert animals, *Uromastyx ocellata* shouldn't have water dishes.

---

### Housing

Enclosures provided for baby Ocellated Uromastyx should be **4'Lx2'Wx2'H**. As an adult, you will be looking at an enclosure that is **5'Lx2'Wx3'H**. More space is desired for multiple animals, as with hides.

Ocellateds are rocky-terrain burrowers. Rocks *must* be affixed in an enclosure if they are used as burrows to prevent hazardous collapses. Branches and levels are ideal for this species; they will climb in the wild to gain access to food. Climbing is also great for wellness and enrichment. Substrate recommended for Ocellated Uromastyx is as follows:

Fully-organic Soil  
(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 establishing by having *Optimal Hot* and *Optimal Cool* areas during their photoperiod. That means, the basking area has a surface temperature of 120°F, and the farthest corner from that basking area must read 70°F. Without, long-term and short-term complications arise.

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

Ocellateds *Do Not* brumate. Brumation is not required for breeding.

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 Ocellated 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.

For the most efficient use of florescent bulbs, distance from flat basking areas should be 12 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.

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 Ssp. 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 Ocellateds.

Healthy Ocellateds do not need water. *Do Not* mist or soak an Ocellated in shed.

Ocellateds are coastal desert animals. Ventilation is key. 30% ambient humidity with dry substrate keeps the bad bacteria down.

As Ocellated 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.