

BUYING AN IGUANA

Selecting a pet iguana

When buying an iguana the following points indicate a healthy specimen:

- Well-rounded, fleshy hind limbs and tail
- Green, lustrous skin
- Alertness
- An upright posture
- Absence of discharges from the eyes and nose and no faecal staining of the cloaca

An iguana that is eating, is reasonably active, is exploring its surroundings by tongue flicking and is not hyperactive or fearful is a good choice.

Accommodation for green iguanas

Iguanas come from the tropics so their environment should reproduce rain forest conditions while being clean and practical. Vivariums will be satisfactory if they are equipped with the following:

- A system for controlling light and temperature
- Lighting
- Ultraviolet light source
- A heat lamp or other heat producing device – hot rocks are not recommended
- A feeding area which will not get contaminated by litter materials
- A water pan for drinking and/or bathing
- A hiding box for privacy
- Doors that are sufficiently large to permit servicing

As iguanas vary in size from small newborns to large adults it will be necessary to change vivariums in accordance with the size of your pet.

Veterinary care

After purchasing an iguana an examination by a veterinary surgeon is recommended. Routine microscopic examination of the faeces of the newly acquired iguana can be done at this time to determine the presence of parasites. Any questions that you have about keeping an iguana can also be answered.

It is also recommended that you insure your pet iguana. This should cost less than £40/\$70 annually and is a wise investment.