



Cyclura or Rock Iguanas

Cyclura spp.

There are 8 species and 16 subspecies of *Cyclura* that are thought to exist today. All *Cyclura* species are endangered and are listed as CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) Appendix I, the highest level of protection the Convention gives. Wild *Cyclura* are only found in the Caribbean, with many subspecies endemic to only one particular island in the West Indies. *Cyclura* mature and grow slowly compared to other lizards in the family *Iguanidae*, and have a very long life span (sometimes reaches ages of 50+ years). The more common species in the pet trade include the Rhinoceros Iguana (*Cyclura cornuta cornuta*), and the Cuban Rock Iguana (*Cyclura nubila nubila*).



Cuban Rock Iguana (juvenile),
Cyclura nubila nubila

Basic Care:

Habitat: *Cyclura* care is similar to that of the Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*), but there are some major differences. *Cyclura* Iguanas are generally ground-dwelling lizards, and require a very large cage with lots of floor space. The suggested minimum space to keep one or two adult *Cyclura* in captivity is usually a cage that is at the very least 10'X10'. Because of this space requirement, many *Cyclura* owners choose to simply designate a room of their home to free-roaming. If a male/female pair are to be kept together, multiple basking spots, feeding stations, and hides will be required. All *Cyclura* are extremely territorial and can inflict serious injuries or even death to their cage-mates unless monitored carefully.

The recommended temperature for *Cyclura* is a basking spot of about 95-100F during the day, with a temperature gradient of cooler areas to escape the heat. Night-time temperatures are ideal above 65-70F.

Cyclura Iguanas need both UVA and UVB spectrum lighting to survive. Without UVB, iguanas (and many other reptiles) cannot produce vitamin D3, which is used to properly metabolize calcium. Lack of D3 can lead to a crippling disorder known as Metabolic Bone Disease. Proper amounts of UVB can only be obtained through natural sunlight (unfiltered), and a few select reptile specialty bulbs.

Diet: *Cyclura* Iguanas are strict vegetarians! A proper diet consists mainly (~80%) of dark leafy greens such as collard, dandelion, turnip, mustard, endive, escarole, and cilantro, with (~20%) vegetables such as squashes, green beans, snap peas, parsnips, carrots, and sweet potato. Fruits should be fed sparingly (mainly offered as treats, or to hydrate), and can include figs, berries, mango, papaya, melon, etc. This diet provides the proper calcium to phosphorus ratio (2:1) the iguanas require. Occasional treats can also be made of whole wheat bread, cooked pasta, and rice. Animal protein (insects, mice, cheese, egg, cat/dog food) is to be strictly avoided! Any animal protein in the diet, although causing quick growth, will result in kidney failure and a greatly reduced life-span.