



Common Name: Bearded Dragon

Scientific Name: *Pogona vitticeps*

Description: Bearded dragons have a broad triangular head, round and flat body, stout legs, and robust tails. Their colour varies with that of the soil in the region in which they live and ranges from brown to tan with red or gold highlights. They have the ability to change colour in response to stimuli such as rivalry challenges and ambient temperature change. They have spiky scales in rows and clusters on their head and body. They also have a “beard” of spiky scales on their expandable throat pouch. They have an average body length of 33-60 cm and their lifespan can range from 5-15 years.

Distribution: Central Australia

Habitat: Desert, dry forests and scrub lands - bushes, trees, and rocks. Summer temperature ranges between 20-35 degrees celsius and winter temperatures can get as low as 5 degrees Celsius. Humidity averages 24% with low of 18% and highs of 80%.

Nutrition: Classified as opportunistic omnivores and typically feed on insects and plant matter including greens, fruits, and flowers. They will occasionally eat small rodents and lizards. Calcium and vitamin D3 are an essential part of their diet. As they are a diurnal species, feeding during daylight hours.

Behaviour: Bearded dragons are a diurnal arboreal species that likes to spend time basking on branches, shrubs, rocks, and even fence posts, but may burrow underground for the hottest parts of the day. They are excellent climbers. They are generally a solitary species and may show aggression towards one another by displaying their beard. The beard is also used for mating displays. Males may bob their head with a darkened beard to show dominance to females and subordinate males. Submission may be shown through an “arm waving” behaviour. The species’ main defense mechanism against is its body spikes, meant to deter predators including larger lizards, dingoes, and birds of prey.



Common Name: Leopard Gecko

Scientific Name: *Eublepharis macularis*

Description: Adults typically have a yellow and black spotted head and dorsal side, a greyish tail with white transversal stripes and black dots, and a white or light cream coloured ventral side - giving a leopard like appearance. Many kept as pets have been bred to have various colour morphs including albino, patternless, blizzard, jungle, tangerine and snow. They have an average body length of 23 cm and have fat fleshy tails when healthy. Unlike most geckos, the leopard gecko lacks adhesive toe pads and does have moveable eyelids. They can have an average lifespan of 10-20 years in the wild.

Distribution: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and Western India.

Habitat: Arid deserts and grasslands - dry and rocky, clay-gravel soil beneath a layer of sand, coarse grasses, drought resistant shrubs. Summer temperatures 25-30 degrees Celsius, winter temperatures around 10 degrees Celsius.

Nutrition: Classified as insectivores, they typically feed on crickets, roaches, mealworms, super worms, moths, spiders, ants and other insects. They occasionally eat newborn rodents. They have been known to ingest sand as a source of calcium which, along with vitamin D3, is an essential part of their diet. They also practice dermatophagia in which they eat the skin that they shed about once a month. The exact reason is unknown, but is thought to be for essential nutrients or to hide their scent from predators. As they are a nocturnal species and feed at night.

Behaviour: Leopard geckos are a nocturnal, terrestrial species and spend the majority of daytime hiding under rocks or in burrows with elevated humidity levels. As ectotherms, they may become dormant during the colder months. They are generally solitary creatures and males can be aggressive towards one another. The species will shed its tail to avoid predation or in times of severe stress. The tail will regenerate, but does not return to its original state. Key predators include foxes, snakes, monitor lizards, and owls. Unlike other geckos, they are not big climbers due to lack of toe pads.



Common Name: Ball Python/ Royal Python

Scientific Name: *Python regius*

Description: Ball pythons are typically dark-brown to nearly black marked with oblong patches of tan, light brown, reddish-brown, or yellow-orange. Pied and albino species are somewhat frequently encountered in the wild, and the pet trade produces hundreds of different colour morphs and patterns. They have stocky bodies with an average length of 90-150 cm and relatively small heads. They have an average lifespan of 10 years in the wild and up to 40 or more years in captivity.

Distribution: Sub-Saharan Africa

Habitat: Open arid habitat, savannahs and grasslands, sparsely forested woodland, overgrown field and agricultural borders. Hot season 20-30 degrees celsius, cool season around 17-26 degrees Celsius. Humidity averages 70-80%.

Nutrition: Typically feed on grassland rodents including cane rats, Nile rats, gerbils, jerboas, jirds and zebra mice. They have been known to eat shrews, ground-nesting birds and lizards. They ambush their prey with a rapid strike and then swallow them live or immobilize them through constriction until they expire. They feed infrequently and often undergo long fasts when the weather is dry and hot and food is scarce. As they are a nocturnal species, they feed at night.

Behaviour: Ball pythons are a nocturnal, terrestrial, and solitary species that retreat in termite mounds, empty mammal burrows, hollow logs, and will even climb trees and occupy tree hollows. When nervous or threatened they defensively coil themselves into a tight ball and hide their head in the centre. Their main predators include larger snakes, birds, carnivores such as warthogs and leopards, as well as humans. Like all reptiles they shed their skin in order to rid themselves of parasites and allow for growth. This occurs once about every 5 weeks, except when they are less active in the cooler months when it will only occur about once over the course of the winter.



Common Name: Red-Eared Slider

Scientific Name: *Trachemys scripta elegans*

Description: Red-Eared sliders typically have a dark green carapace with light and dark variable markings and a light yellow plastron with dark, paired, and irregular markings in the centre of the scutes. The rear marginal scutes are notched. The arms, legs, and head are dark green with yellow lines and there is a red stripe on each side of the head. They have an average carapace length of 15-20 cm and an average lifespan of 20-30 years.

Distribution: Originating from the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico, they are now established on every continent, except Antarctica, including areas of Australia, Europe, South Africa, Caribbean islands, Israel, Bahrain, Mariana Islands, Guam, Asia, and throughout the US and Canada.

Habitat: Quiet, mud-bottomed waters with abundant vegetation and basking sites. Average summer water temperature of 21-28 degrees Celsius.

Nutrition: Classified as an omnivore, juveniles are mainly carnivores while vegetation composes the majority of the adult diet. They consume tiny fish, amphibian larvae, water snails, carrion and a variety of vegetation including both land and aquatic plants. As they are a diurnal species, they feed in the daytime.

Behaviour: Red-Eared sliders are a diurnal, solitary, and mainly aquatic species. As ectotherms, they spend time basking on logs, rocks, or vegetation to regulate their temperature. In the winter they enter brumation at the bottom of ponds, shallow lakes, under banks, under rocks, or in hollow stumps. During this time they are nearly motionless and metabolic rate drops dramatically, but they may “wake up” to drink or breathe and then return to a dormant state. When nervous or threatened they pull their head, arms, legs, and tail inside their shell for protection. Adults are not easily predated on; however, juveniles and eggs are very susceptible to predation from raccoons, skunks, foxes, wading birds and storks.



Common Name: Crested/ Eyelash Gecko

Scientific Name: *Correlophus ciliatus*
formerly *Rhacodactylus ciliatus*

Description: Crested geckos have many naturally occurring colour groups including grey, brown, red, orange, and yellow and may have variable marking patterns of spots and stripes. They have hair like projections above the eyes that resemble eyelashes and they have a crest that typically runs from each eye to the tail. They have wedge shaped heads and may be considered “crowned” if the head is wider than it is long. They have an average body length of 20 cm and prehensile tails. Like most geckos, the crested gecko has adhesive toe pads and lacks eyelids. Their average lifespan is unclear but is thought to be 10-20 years.

Distribution: South Province, New Caledonia

Habitat: Coastal forests, closed humid forests, and montane forests - small trees and shrubs. Temperature ranges between 11-28 degrees celsius with an average of 23 degrees celsius. Humidity averages 70-80%.

Nutrition: Classified as omnivores and typically feed on insects, nectar, and fruits including bananas, mangos and papayas. Calcium and vitamin D3 are an essential part of their diet. As they are a nocturnal species, they feed at night.

Behaviour: Crested geckos are a solitary nocturnal arboreal species that are very stealthy and agile but spend the majority of the daytime hiding in tree crevices and holes or amongst dense foliage. With their sticky toes and prehensile tail for balance and branch grabbing, they are able to climb nearly any surface. Because they don't have eyelids they periodically lick their eyes to keep them clean and moist. The species will shed its tail to avoid predation, but unlike other geckos, their tail will not regenerate. Key predators can include fire ants, dogs, cats, rats, snakes and other geckos.



Common Name: Veiled Chameleon

Scientific Name: *Chamaeleo calyptrotus*

Description: Veiled chameleons are typically banded with very bright green, blue, and gold colours mottled with white, orange, yellow, tan or black. Their colour can change according to social status, reproductive cycle stage, in response to a threat or stress, to regulate body temperature, for camouflage or for communication with other chameleons. They have a casque on top of their head which reaches an adult height of 5 cm. They have independently rotating eyes, claw-like feet, a projectile tongue and a curled tail. Females have an average body length of 25-35 cm, while males are much larger averaging lengths of 43-61 cm. The average lifespan is 5 years for females and 8 years for males.

Distribution: Border of Yemen and Saudi Arabia

Habitat: High, dry plateaus of mountainous regions (up to an elevation of 3000 feet), forests and valleys - trees, bushes, and shrubs. Temperature ranges between 25-32 degrees Celsius with an average humidity of 60-75%.

Nutrition: Largely omnivorous and typically feed on insects and leaves. They have a long tongue (up to 1.5 times the length of its body) that is compacted at the back of the throat and shoots out to grab insects on the suction cup-like tip. Leaves are particularly consumed during the dry season as a source of water. As they are a diurnal species, they feed in the daytime.

Behaviour: Veiled chameleons are a shy, solitary, diurnal, arboreal species. Their feet are specialized for grabbing and holding branches and as such they are quite clumsy on the ground. When startled or threatened they curl into a tight fetal position, darken in colour and “play possum.” They can be very aggressive towards one another, particularly males. Their colour pattern easily camouflages them in the daytime, but they are more easily spotted at night by their key predators that include nocturnal snakes, birds of prey and even lemurs.



Common Name: Corn Snake

Scientific Name: *Pantherophis guttatus*
formerly *Elaphe guttata*

Description: Corn snakes typically have a brown and red-orange dorsal side with large spots and a white and black checkered ventral side, but the colour may also include grey or yellow depending on the specific habitat. Many kept as pets have been bred to have various colour morphs and patterns, including blacks, yellows, spots, stripes, and solids. They have an average body length of 70-120 cm and an average lifespan of 8 years. They are often mistaken for the venomous southern copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*) but can be identified by their narrower head, lighter colouration and square-shaped spots.

Distribution: Eastern and southern central United States and northern Mexico

Habitat: Temperate deciduous forests, rocky regions, forest edges, overgrown fields and farms, abandoned buildings, suburban areas near homes and barns - crevices and logs for nesting. Can be found in elevations up to 1800 m but typically prefer lower elevation. Temperature ranges between 12-28 degrees Celsius with an average humidity of 55-90%.

Nutrition: Classified as carnivores and typically feed on rodents including hispid cotton rats, white-footed mice and eastern moles. They have been known to eat amphibians, bird eggs, and other reptiles including smaller corn snakes. They kill their prey through constriction and feed infrequently, only every few days. As they are a nocturnal species, they feed at night.

Behaviour: Corn snakes are a solitary, nocturnal, and mainly terrestrial species, although they will climb trees, cliffs, and other elevated surfaces. They spend daylight hours in underground burrows, often of their prey. As ectotherms, they hibernate during the winter in the cooler climate regions of their distribution range. In October they find a crevice such as in a log or cave to hibernate in and emerge in April. Key predators include birds of prey, numerous mammalian carnivores and other snakes, such as eastern kingsnakes and black racers.



Common Name: Boa Constrictor / Red-tailed Boa

Scientific Name: *Boa constrictor*

Description: Boa constrictors typically have a cream or brown dorsal side marked with dark “saddle-shaped” bands that become more colourful and prominent towards the tail and an ivory or pale grey underside. There are dark rhomboid marks along the sides and possibly smaller dark marks over the entire body. The arrow shaped head will have a stripe running dorsally from the snout to the back of the head, a dark triangle between the snout and the eye, and dark triangles from the eyes down to the jaw. Numerous colour morphs are present in pet trade animals. Females are generally larger than males with a species average body length of 2-3 m and an average lifespan of 20 years. There are nine currently acknowledged subspecies of boa constrictor.

Distribution: Northern Mexico, Central and South America, Argentina, Peru, the Lesser Antilles, Trinidad, Tobago, Dominica and St. Lucia.

Habitat: Primary habitat is rainforest clearings or edges, but can also be found in woodlands, grasslands, dry tropical forest, thorn scrub and semi-desert. They are also commonly found near human settlements, agricultural areas and along streams and rivers. Temperature ranges between 25-33 degrees Celsius with an average humidity of 45-80%.

Nutrition: Classified as carnivores and typically feed small mammals such as bats, birds, rodents, and opossums. They have been known to eat any animal they can capture and fit in their mouth. They generally ambush hunt but may occasionally actively hunt. They kill their prey through constriction before swallowing. They feed infrequently as it takes them 4-6 days to fully digest a meal. As they are a nocturnal species, they feed at night.

Behaviour: Boa constrictors are a solitary, semi-arboreal, nocturnal species that spend the majority of the day in the burrows of medium-sized mammals, although they will bask in the sun to warm themselves in cool weather. In the extreme northern and southern parts of its distribution range, they may undergo several weeks of inactivity (torpor/brumation) to get through periods of extreme cold or drought. Like other snakes, they shed their skin periodically and generally become inactive during this time due to clouded vision caused by the lubricating substance required to shed. They will bite to defend themselves when threatened and key predators include hawks, caimans, alligators and jaguars.



Common Name: Uromastyx / Spiny-tailed Lizards

Scientific Name: *Uromastyx* spp.

Description: Uromastyx lizards are typically grey, but may also be a mottled red, orange, green, or yellow. The colour of their scales change with age, stress level and body temperature. They have a blunt head, dorsally flattened body, and large tail covered in ringed spines. They have an average body length of 40-62 cm and their average lifespan is thought to be about 10 years with some individuals living more than double that.

Distribution: North Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Algeria, Egypt

Habitat: Saharan desert, rocky areas, semi-rocky sandy areas, and rarely open sandy desert (up to 2000 m elevation). Temperature ranges between -7-60 degrees Celsius with a very wide range of humidity levels depending on where they are situated and local weather conditions.

Nutrition: Largely omnivorous and typically feed on fibrous plant matter such as fat hens, some types of spinach, and salty plant species of the genus *Atriplex*. They are also known to consume ants and beetles, particularly as juveniles. They obtain sufficient water through the plants they consume. They have glands in their nostrils that allow the elimination of extra salt obtained through their diet while retaining water, as it is more scarce. As they are a diurnal species, they feed in the daytime.

Behaviour: Uromastyx lizards are a solitary, diurnal, terrestrial species that are quite sedentary. They are very territorial and aggressive towards intruders including conspecifics. They can often be found basking in the sun, but will burrow beneath bushes, high in rocky cliffs, or underground where a temperature of 20-25 degrees Celsius is maintained when necessary. As ectotherms, they will hibernate during the winter (for 2-5 months depending on location) and will aestivate in the summer when there are drought-like conditions. When startled or threatened they seek refuge in a burrow and cling tightly to the walls to avoid being dragged out. Their burrows may also have multiple entrances and exits to confuse and escape predators that include shrikes, raptors, wolves, dogs, monitor lizards and snakes. If attacked outside a burrow they will use their muscular spiky tail and hissing to defend themselves.



Common Name: Red Footed Tortoise

Scientific Name: *Chelonoidis carbonaria*

Description: Red Footed tortoises typically have a dark brown to blackish-brown carapace with pale scute centers and a pale to dark yellow plastron. The scales on the limbs and tail range from yellow to dark reddish orange, and the scales on the dorsal surface of the head have dark margins and are bright pale yellow to brick red in colour. They have an average carapace length of 51 cm and the average lifespan is unknown, although 50 years or more may be possible. Growth rings are usually evident in young individuals and smooth with age.

Distribution: Eastern Colombia, Guianas, Eastern Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Northern Argentina, Panama, Trinidad.

Habitat: Rainforests, dry thorny forests, temperate forests, and in savanna areas. It prefers heavily forested, humid habitats such as forest clearings, wood edges, and along waterways. They avoid muddy areas due to low burrowing capacity and tend to be less common in clearings associated with palms and mangos. Temperature averages 21-30 degrees Celsius and humidity averages 80%.

Nutrition: Primarily omnivorous and typically consume fruit and both live and dead foliage including grasses, leaves, flowers, roots, shoots and fungi. They are also known to eat invertebrates such as ants, termites, beetles, butterflies, snails, and worms and sometimes consume small live animals such as snakes or rodents. They may also feed on feces and carrion. They also consume sand and small pebbles which is thought to aid in the digestion of plant materials and mineral rich soil to maintain adequate calcium levels. As they are a diurnal species, they feed in the daytime.

Behaviour: Red Footed tortoises are a diurnal, solitary, terrestrial species. Home ranges may vary from about 1.5-290 acres. In the southern parts of their range they may aestivate when food becomes scarce due to climate conditions. They take shelter for thermoregulatory and evasion from predators in places such as tree falls, debris piles, armadillo or agouti burrows, hollow logs, holes and heavy vegetation cover. Adults are generally only predated upon by humans and jaguars; however, juveniles and eggs are very susceptible to predation from tegus, ring-tailed coatis, rats, mongooses, large lizards, snakes, crocodilians, large turtles, predatory birds, cats, opossums, foxes, and dogs.



Common Name: Panther Chameleon

Scientific Name: *Furcifer pardalis*

Description: Male panther chameleons have a wide range of colouration, which may vary according to their origin of location, including blue-green, emerald-green, turquoise, bright pink with yellowish white stripes, orange, red, or green with variations of spots, stripes, and bands. Females tend to be more uniformly pale green or pink in comparison. Their colour can change according to social status, reproductive cycle stage, in response to a threat or stress, to regulate body temperature, for camouflage, and for communication with other chameleons. They have independently rotating eyes, claw like feet, a projectile tongue, and a curled tail. They have an average body length of 23 and an average lifespan of 1-3 years.

Distribution: Native to Madagascar, introduced to La Reunion and Mauritius

Habitat: Lowland, dry deciduous forests, thin tree belts bordering rivers and roads. Prefers open habitats that are not overly shaded. Temperature ranges between 15-22 degrees Celsius with an average humidity of 80%.

Nutrition: Typically feed on terrestrial invertebrates, including a variety of insects, only rarely eating plant matter. They have a long tongue that is compacted at the back of the throat and shoots out to grab insects on the suction cup like tip. As they are a diurnal species, they feed in the daytime.

Behaviour: Panther chameleons are a solitary, diurnal arboreal species that are shy. Their feet are specialized for grabbing, holding and gripping onto thin branches. They are very aggressive towards one another, particularly males. They avoid predation by birds and snakes by freezing in place to avoid detection and because of their camouflaged colour patterns.



Common Name: Green Iguana

Scientific Name: *Iguana iguana*

Description: Green iguanas are typically green, but may be blotchy or banded with brown, particularly when juveniles. They have the ability to change colour depending on mood, in response to stimuli, as an indicator of health or social status or for thermoregulatory purposes. They have a pendulous dewlap under the throat, a dorsal crest made up of dermal spines that run from the mid neck to the tail base, and a long tapering tail. They have an average body length of 175 cm and their average lifespan is 8 years.

Distribution: Central and South America, Sinaloa, Veracruz, Mexico, Paraguay, Southeast Brazil, Caribbean Islands, Florida, Hawaii

Habitat: Thickly forested areas but have adapted to more open areas and are often found near water. Temperatures average 25-33 degrees Celsius and humidity averages 45-75%.

Nutrition: Classified as omnivores but are mainly herbivorous typically feeding on green leafy plants and ripe fruits. Adults occasionally eat carrion or invertebrates, but high protein is essential for young iguanas who tend to consume insects and spiders during this time. Adults stick to a leafy diet to fill their low phosphorus, high calcium needs. They may cease to eat before or during they shed their skin. As they are a diurnal species, they feed during daylight hours.

Behaviour: Green iguanas are a diurnal, solitary, arboreal species that likes to spend time basking, which is essential for digestion processes. They are excellent climbers and swimmers. When frightened a green iguana will likely freeze or hide, but may display the dewlap and puff up its body in preparation for an attack. If they are caught they may twist, rotating and tail whip in attempts to get free. Like other lizards, they may drop their tail to escape predation and it will regenerate, though not to its original length. If threatened they may jump from elevated positions before running or swimming from danger.



Common Name: Savannah Monitor

Scientific Name: *Varanus exanthematicus*

Description: Savannah monitors are typically grey to brown in colour dorsally with rows of dark edged yellow spots across the back and alternating brown and yellowish rings down the tail. Their ventral side is a yellowish colour. They are thick and stocky with a wide head, short neck, and a short and tapering tail with a double toothed crest.. They have an average body length of 150 cm and their average lifespan is unknown

Distribution: West and Central Africa, south of the Sahara

Habitat: Preferred habitat is the savannah but has adapted to rocky desert type areas, and open forests and woodlands. Temperature ranges between 20-28 degrees celsius with humidity ranging from 60-80%.

Nutrition: Carnivorous and typically feed on small mammals, birds, snakes, toads, lizards, and eggs. Their teeth are specialized for cracking snails, which form a large part of the adult diet. Juveniles are primarily insectivores due to their lack of teeth. Adults are also known to consume carrion. They feed in accordance with the weather, consuming up to one tenth of its own body weight every day of the eight month wet season and surviving off of their built up fat reserves in the dry season. As they are a diurnal species, they feed in the daytime.

Behaviour: Savannah monitors are a diurnal, terrestrial, solitary species that can be quite territorial and aggressive towards one another. They often spend the hotter parts of the days in low trees and bushes or in burrows. They are very alert and easily startled by noises and sudden movements. When threatened they will wrestle conspecifics, hiss loudly and thrash their tails. In the face of a predator, some have been known to "play dead." Not many predators are known, but may include some snakes and birds.



Common Name: Chinese Water Dragon

Scientific Name: *Physignathus cocincinus*

Description: Chinese water dragons are typically light to dark green or sometimes purple with an orange stomach. The tail is banded green and white middle to end and diagonal stripes of green or turquoise run along the body. Their ventral side can be white, off-white, pale green, or yellow and their throats are quite colourful and may be blue and purple or peach and either solid or striped. They have a relatively long tail approximately two-thirds of the body length which they use for balance, defense, and swimming. They have an average body length of 80-90 cm and their average lifespan is 10-15 years.

Distribution: Southern China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand

Habitat: Lowland and highland forests along the banks of freshwater streams and lakes. Temperature ranges between 17-35 degrees Celsius and humidity ranges between 60-80%.

Nutrition: Classified as omnivorous but typically feed on insects such as ants. They also eat plant matter and occasionally small fish, mammals, or reptiles. As they are a diurnal species, they feed in the daytime.

Behaviour: Chinese water dragons are a diurnal, arboreal species that like to spend time basking in trees or other vegetation. They can sometimes be found in groups made up of several females, juveniles of varying ages, and a dominant male. They are very alert and to avoid predation, they will drop into the water and stay submerged for up to an hour. Key predators include snakes and birds.



Common Name: Long-tailed Grass Lizard

Scientific Name: *Takydromus sexlineatus*

Description: Long-tailed grass lizards are typically brown, green, or beige dorsally with different shades of brown stripes and a white to cream coloured ventral side. Some individuals may have small circular spots on the sides of their bodies. They have a small heads with sharply pointed snouts and may have black or pink tongues. They're most easily recognizable feature is a very long tail that is up to three times their body length, which is an average of 30 cm. Their potential lifespan is unknown.

Distribution: South East Asia, India, China, Thailand, Indonesia

Habitat: Grassland specialists, but also known to inhabit areas of sparse vegetation in clearings, at forest edges, and open plantation. Temperature ranges between 26-31 degrees Celsius with a humidity range of 74-85%.

Nutrition: Classified as carnivores and typically feed on small insects such as flies, spiders, ants, crickets, grasshoppers, small moths, and moth or butterfly larvae. They have extremely fast reaction times and have even been shown jumping in the air to catch prey. As they are a diurnal species, they feed in the daytime.

Behaviour: Long-tailed grass lizards are a diurnal and terrestrial species that like to spend their time basking in the sun. Their long tail is an adaption for helping them bask on top of grass blades by spreading its weight over a lot of body surface contact points. They are very fast and agile. If they are threatened by a predator, their defense strategy is first to freeze in an attempt to avoid detection and if the danger persists they flee to seek cover in the safety of foliage. Like other lizards, they can drop their tail if caught by a predator and it will regenerate, though not to the same length. Key predators include snakes, birds and other lizards.



Common Name: Green Anole

Scientific Name: *Anolis carolinensis*

Description: Green anoles are typically coloured brown to green, or grey, and at times may reflect combinations of these colours. They are able to change colour depending on temperature and excitation, such as increases activity, stress, or competition. Females may have a line that runs along their dorsal surface from their neck to the beginning of their tail, and most males have pinkish dewlaps under their neck. They have adhesive toe pads and very long tails accounting for over half of their body length (snout to vent), which ranges from 4-8 cm. They have an average lifespan of 5 years.

Distribution: Native to southeastern United States, North Carolina, Texas, Florida, introduced in Hawaii, Ogasawara islands, Cuba, Bahamas, Guam

Habitat: Moist forests and brushy clearings - shaded trees and shrubs, tall grasses, urban and suburban areas found near dwellings on fence posts and sides of buildings. Temperature ranges between 16-29 degrees Celsius and humidity ranges from 60-90%.

Nutrition: Classified as opportunistic omnivores but are typically insectivorous feeding on beetles, flies, spiders, and arthropods. They will also eat mollusks, grain, and seeds. They capture their prey by perching, watching and waiting until prey is within striking distance. They may also leap forward to capture their prey, or ambush larger prey items. As they are a diurnal species, they feed in the daytime.

Behaviour: Green anoles are a solitary, diurnal, arboreal species that are most often found perched on shaded tree branches. Their adhesive toe pads help them climb. They are very territorial and aggressive towards intruders, including conspecifics, especially males. When startled or threatened they will hide in trees, tall grasses, and vegetation and they also have a structure similar to a patagium that allows them to glide down from tall trees safely. Like other lizards, they can drop their tail and it will regenerate, though not to its original length. Key predators include snakes, birds, larger reptiles, cats, dogs, and frogs.



Common Name: Brown Anole

Scientific Name: *Anolis sagrei* / *Norops sagrei*

Description: Brown anoles are typically coloured light grey to stark black and may be uniformly coloured or have dark and irregular dorsal patches. Females almost always have a white dorsal stripe with a dark triangular pattern and males have an orange-red dewlaps under their neck. They have a short, wide head, short snout, adhesive toe pads, long claws, and long tails. They have an average length of 13-17 cm and an average lifespan of 5 years.

Distribution: Southern Georgia, Florida, Mexico, Caribbean, Cuba, Bahamas, Hawaii, Jamaica

Habitat: Semi-tropical environment - shrubs, vines, fences, trees. Temperature ranges between 18-27 degrees Celsius and humidity ranges from 40-80%.

Nutrition: Classified as opportunistic omnivores but are typically insectivorous feeding on arthropods such as beetles, crickets, flies, moths, grasshoppers, butterflies. They may also eat earthworms, snails, and even small vertebrates like green anole hatchlings. To meet their water requirements, they lap water droplets from leaves. As they are a diurnal species, they feed in the daytime and adopt a sit and wait method of hunting.

Behaviour: Brown anoles are a solitary, diurnal, terrestrial species that are most often found low on tree trunks, but can occasionally be found in tree crowns. Their adhesive toe pads help them climb. They may also be found basking in the sun. They are a very alert and quick moving species which helps them evade predators such as broad headed skinks, snakes, birds, and sometimes spiders. Like other lizards, they can drop their tail and it will regenerate, though not to its original length. They must also periodically shed their skin, and they do this in flakes rather than in large pieces.



Common Name: Green Basilisk

Scientific Name: *Basiliscus plumifrons*

Description: Green basilisks are typically a bright green colour with blue spots along the dorsal and bright yellow eyes. Males have a crest on their head, back, and tail, while females only have a head crest. They have specialized scales on the bottoms of their rear feet that allow them to run across the water surface before swimming. Their average body length is 25 cm and they may reach up to 90 cm including tail. They have an average lifespan of 5 years.

Distribution: Honduras, Panamá, Costa Rica, Nicaragua

Habitat: Lowland moist forests, wet forests, and premontane wet forest - stream courses with considerable amounts of trees intact. Temperature ranges between 26-29 degrees Celsius and averages 80%.

Nutrition: Classified as omnivores and typically eat insects, small lizards, fruit, flowers, and small mammals such as rodents. As they are a diurnal species, they feed in the daytime.

Behaviour: Green basilisks are a solitary, diurnal, semi arboreal and semi aquatic species that are quite skittish. They often spend time on branches basking in the sun. To avoid predation from birds of prey, opossums, and snakes they will often drop from branches onto the ground, or into water, and run using their specialized feet and long tail for support. They are excellent swimmers.



Common Name: Brown Basilisk

Scientific Name: *Basiliscus vittatus*

Description: Brown basilisks are typically brown in colour and are dark-barred dorsally with distinct yellowish dorsolateral lines. Males have a crest on their head, back, and tail, while females have a “hood” and smaller vertebral crest. They have specialized scales on the bottoms of their rear feet that allow them to run across the water surface before swimming. Their average length is 60 cm including tail and they may reach up to 90 cm including tail and an average lifespan of 5 years.

Distribution: United States, Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Belize, Panama, Costa Rica, Colombia

Habitat: Tropical and subtropical wet, moist, and dry forests - dense vegetation along the margin of any body of water. Temperature ranges between 19-33 degrees Celsius and humidity ranges from 45-75%.

Nutrition: Classified as omnivores but are typically insectivorous feeding on aquatic insects, grasshoppers, and scorpions. They may also eat fruits, berries, shrimp, and small lizards and snakes. As they are a diurnal species, they feed in the daytime.

Behaviour: Brown basilisks are a solitary, diurnal, semi arboreal and semi aquatic species that are quite skittish. They often spend time on low branches basking in the sun, or may be found in vine-covered thickets. They are alert and agile and to avoid predation from birds of prey, opossums, and snakes they will often drop from branches onto the water and run using their specialized feet and long tail for support. They are excellent swimmers.



Common Name: Milksnake

Scientific Name: *Lampropeltis triangulum*

Description: Milksnakes are typically very colourful having a gray or tan body with black or colourful bordered blotches that are brown, red, orange, yellow, or white. The neck has a light collar with black bordered coloured bands separated by light rings, and has a light Y or V shaped patch. Many subspecies exist, all with slight colour variations and the pet trade has produced many colour morphs. Because of their colour variations they are often confused with other species, particularly the venomous coral snake. They range in length from 35-107 cm and their lifespan in the wild is unknown, although captive specimens may live for 20 or more years.

Distribution: United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America

Habitat: Coniferous and deciduous forest edges, tropical hardwood forests. Open woodlands, dry or wet prairies, savannahs, overgrown fields, rocky hillsides, small streams, marshes, agricultural, and suburban areas. As they are so widely distributed, they have a very wide temperature and humidity range.

Nutrition: Classified as carnivores and typically feed on rodents including voles, mice, and rates. They will also consume birds, lizards, snakes, bird eggs, and snake eggs. They use constriction to suffocate their prey before swallowing it whole. As they are a nocturnal species, they feed at night.

Behaviour: Milksnakes are a nocturnal, terrestrial, and solitary species that retreat in rotting logs, damp rash, and abandoned buildings. They are largely solitary, but will be found in groups directly prior to, during, and directly after hibernation. When nervous or threatened they will vibrate their tails to mimic the sound of a rattlesnake in an attempt to scare off predators. They are also offered some protection by their similar colour patterns to the venomous coral snake. Key predators include raccoons, red foxes, striped skunks, and coyotes. Milksnakes may defensively coil themselves into a tight ball and hide their head in the centre.



Common Name: Common Kingsnake

Scientific Name: *Lampropeltis getula*

Description: Kingsnakes are typically glossy black snakes with yellow or white cross bars along its body and possibly white or yellow specks. The ventral side is pale yellow to white sometimes with a black pattern. The head is solid black with several yellow or white spots decorating the head or white with black spots. They range in length from 61-153 cm and their average lifespan is thought to be around 5 years.

Distribution: United States, Mexico

Habitat: Forests, grasslands, deserts, urban areas, swamps, marshes, dikes, and arid areas - under wood, trash piles, barns, stone walls, railroads, stump holes, sunny clearings. As they are so widely distributed, they have a very wide temperature and humidity range.

Nutrition: Classified as carnivores and typically feed on five-lined skinks, white-footed mice, quail eggs, lizards, house mice, voles, rats, gophers, birds, and largely other snakes, including venomous ones like coral snakes, copperheads and massasauga rattlesnakes. As they are a diurnal species, they feed in the daytime.

Behaviour: Kingsnakes are a diurnal, terrestrial, and solitary species that spend the majority of the day under leaf litter and other debris, but may also be found basking in the sun. They are capable of climbing trees and swimming. In early November they find caves, rock crevices, mammal burrows, hollow logs, and old stumps to hibernate in for the winter. They emerge around late March or early April. When nervous or threatened they will hiss, strike, bite, and flee. Their colour pattern offers camouflage against the leaf litter. They also spread a musk that alerts other kingsnakes of danger in the area. Key predators include alligators, snakes, hawks, raccoons, skunks, and opossums.



Common Name: Rat Snake

Scientific Name: *Pantherophis obsoletus*

Description: Rat snakes may vary in colour and be solid black with a white chin, yellow with four dark longitudinal lines along the body and a black tongue, orange with grey longitudinal lines along the body and a red tongue, or grey with brown or black blotches. They range in length from 107-183 cm and have an average diameter of 4 cm and their average lifespan is thought to be around 12 years.

Distribution: United States, Southern Ontario

Habitat: Rocky mountainside, flat farmland, cut-woods, fields, river swamps, woods, stream valleys, and rocky canyons - trees, shrubs, cypress, oaks, abandoned houses, and barns. As they are so widely distributed, they may experience very wide range of temperatures and humidity.

Nutrition: Classified as carnivores and typically feed on rodents including mice, rats, chipmunks, and moles. They will also eat small lizards, frogs, birds, and bird eggs. They kill their prey by constriction. As they are a diurnal species, they feed in the daytime.

Behaviour: Rat snakes are a semi arboreal and solitary species that can often be found in trees. They are diurnal in the spring and fall when the weather is cooler, but become largely nocturnal in the hot summer months. They are fairly shy, and when confronted with danger tend to freeze in place. They may also coil themselves and vibrate their tail to mimic a rattlesnake. They also spread a musk on predators that serves a deterrence function. Key predators include snakes, birds of prey, and mammals such as the American mink.

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