

BEARDED DRAGON

updated March 2017



Range	Eastern, central Australia to its southern coast
Habitat	Rocky semi deserts to outer forests
Diet (wild)	Opportunistic omnivores
Diet (captivity)	Various insects, chopped produce, pinky mice
Description	Length: 7–12 inches; tail: additional 7–12 inches. Large head with long pointed throat and cheek scales. Coloration varies from nearly black to a mottled pattern of spots and irregular fine lines. Dorso-ventrally flattened bodies. Scales on the back of the throat and along the sides of the head have spiny extensions.
Lifespan	5–12 years
Reproduction	The female buries up to 30 eggs in the sand, which will hatch after seven months. The young can grow an inch per week during the first three months. Mating season is highlighted by the males' courtship dance, during which they display their best colors, inflate their beards, and open their mouths to display yellow interior.
Behavior	Diurnal ground-dwellers, bearded dragons remain deep in burrows during heat of the day. When fleeing, they may run short distances upright on their hind legs. Head nodding is a typical expression of different stages of excitement. Another interesting behavior is arm waving. Bearded dragons will stand on three legs and wave one of their forelimbs in a slow circular pattern (looks a lot like they're waving hello). One function arm-waving seems to be is species recognition. It's also used to show submission. When housed together, tail raising indicates tension or state of alertness. When housed together, males maintain a hierarchy with the dominant males occupying most advantageous spot for basking. In the wild, the males will space themselves apart from one another.
Our animals	1 sex undetermined
Cool stuff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tail is without predetermined breakage points; tail regeneration capabilities are poor. • Since the 1960s, Australia has strictly prohibited the exportation of any native wildlife. It is believed that the "founder stock" of captive-bred bearded dragons found outside of Australia today were smuggled out of the country between 1974 and 1990.

Phylum
ChordataClass
ReptiliaOrder
SquamataFamily
AgamidaeGenus
Pogonaspecies
P. vitticeps