

## Collard Lizard

*(Crotaphytus collaris)*

Country of Origin	United States of America
Average Size	8 – 14 Inches
Temperament	Active, Inquisitive, Social
Food Source	Livefood
Experience Level	Beginner



The collared lizard is a highly attractive lizard that grows up to 16 inches in length. Two thirds of this length will be tail, whilst a small but stocky body reaches up to 5 inches in length. The collared lizard has a greenish tanned body, with yellow and white spots. A prominent black band (or collar) around the neck leads to a large tanned head. The male is known to have brighter colouration than the female.

The collared lizard has extremely powerful hind legs and can move at terrific speed. In the wild this is used to quickly hunt down smaller lizards, which make the bulk of its diet. In captivity the collared lizard is a voracious eater, devouring crickets, grasshoppers and small locusts, waxworms and mealworms. They may take some green vegetables and tropical fruits, and food should be dusted with a multivitamin and calcium supplement two to three times a week, such as nutrobal.

They cannot be housed with any other species of lizard or snake due to their predatory nature. They can be housed with similar size collared lizards, but only one male to an enclosure.

It is a ground dwelling lizard that usually lives on rocky bluffs and ledges. It can climb very well but hunts and lives on the ground. Substrate should be rock based ideally, such as tiles (not gravel that can be ingested), but sand can be used as they come from a rocky, desert environment. A nervous lizard by nature, plenty of hiding places should be provided, and rocks to climb on. A water bowl should be provided, and the enclosure can be kept at an average room humidity.

A 3 foot or larger vivarium should be provided for an adult, as these are extremely active lizards. UVB light should be provided throughout the day at a minimum strength of 10%. A hot enclosure is required, Daytime 75-90F, Basking 95-104F; Nighttime 70-85F. Basking spot can be created with a 60-100watt basking bulb depending on the size of the enclosure, which should be turned off at night (the UVB should also be turned off at night).

This lizard will tame down relatively quickly with frequent handling. They are one of the more attractive medium-sized lizards and are extremely active, so a joy to watch and famous for having a lot of personality and character.

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