

Frilled Dragon

(*Chlamydosaurus kingii*)

Country of Origin	West Africa
Average Size	Up to 36" including tail
Setup	Diurnal 36 x 24 x 48" or larger
Diet	Livefood, Rodents, Fruit & Vegetables, Eggs
Lifespan	10 years +

Beginner / Intermediate



Frilled dragons are a medium sized lizard, considered hardy and easy to tame. It is an ideal lizard for any keeper, but can be quite hard to obtain in the first place from a captive bred source. The frilled lizard originates from Australia and New Guinea. It can grow up to three feet long but this includes over 50% tail length. The frill of this lizard can extend up to fourteen inches across – although those in captivity may not display frequently, as this is used only when threatened. Once your lizard is comfortable with you, and does not view you as a threat, he has no need to use this trick to scare you away.

The larger the enclosure the better is considered the way to go when dealing with Frilled Dragons, as these are very active lizards. Four foot high by three foot wide and two foot deep would be considered a bare minimum for an adult frilled dragon. Emphasis should be placed on and ample climbing branches placed. Orchid Bark or a soil based mix should be used as a substrate. Use as much foliage, branches, rocks and basking logs as possible, but live plants may be eaten quite quickly, so if using them ensure they are not poisonous.

Daytime temperature should be 70-80F with a basking spot rising to 100F. UVB lights are essential and we recommend a 10% bulb. At night the temperature can drop to the mid 60s. A large water bowl big enough for the dragon to soak in should be provided and should be misted daily to increase humidity to around 80%.

Frilled dragons are not aggressive towards humans, but are aggressive towards other lizard species. They should not be housed with any other species of reptile. Large frilled dragons may kill smaller frilled dragons and eat them. As juveniles groups can be kept, but as maturity approaches males should be separated from each other, although they can be kept in groups with females if a large enough enclosure is provided.

Frilled dragons are primarily insectivorous, consuming crickets, mealworms, waxworms, hoppers and locusts as adults. They can also be given the occasional small rodent as adults. Some frilled dragons will also eat a variety of greens. This depends on the dragon and experiment with greens to find out if your frilled dragon is partial to anything. Their diet can also be supplemented with cooked eggs, ground turkey or chicken, small fish and shrimp. This diet should be supplemented two to three times weekly with a calcium and multivitamin supplement such as nutrobal, to ensure correct metabolic bone function.

This is a highly attractive lizard, very easy to care for, but expensive to buy and house. They are friendly and easily handled however, and provide a slightly more interesting lizard to the bearded dragon and other similar species.