

Ridge-Tailed Monitor



OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Varanus acanthurus*
- Origin : Australia
- Ease of Care: Advanced
- Potential Adult Size: 27 inches
- Life Span: Up to 15 years
- Behaviour: Diurnal
- Diet: Insects
- Handling: Intermediate
- Humidity: 30%-50%

TOP TIPS

- ✓ Use a large vivarium to accommodate the needs of the species.
- ✓ Allow for a few inches of substrate to enable the species to burrow.
- ✓ Provide a large and sturdy water-bowl for the Ridge-Tailed Monitor to soak in.

HOUSING

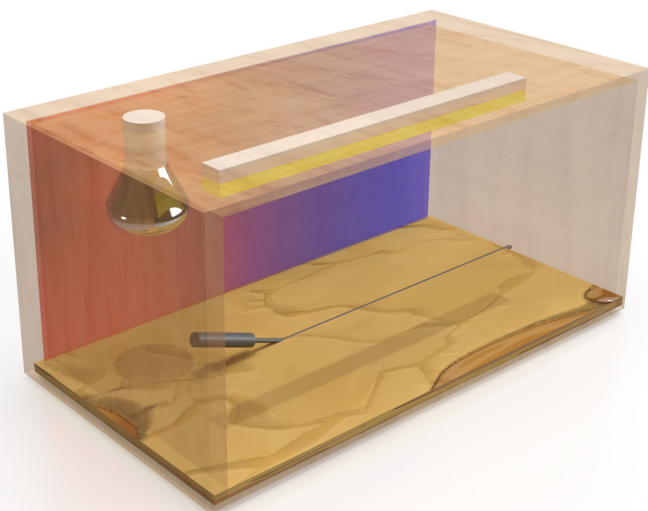
HabiStat Standard Vivarium 48x24x24" (HV4824)
HabiStat Standard Vivarium 60x24x24" (HV6024)

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Housing: Vivarium
- Heating: Heat Bulb
- Thermostat: Dimming Thermostat (High Range)
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Bearded Dragon Bedding
- Water: Large Water bowl

ENVIRONMENT

Terrestrial Vivarium Setup



Heating

Ridge-Tailed Monitors are diurnal animals and require a suitable light and heat gradient in their vivarium.

- Background Temp: 21°C-28°C (69°F-82°F)
- Hot Spot: 42°C-48°C (108°F-118°F)
- Night-Time Temp: 18°C-22°C (64°F-72°F)

Provide a warmer/hot area towards the one side of the enclosure, using an overhead heat source to offer a heat gradient. Use an Arcadia Pro Ceramic Lamp Holder & Bracket (RADCHP) with a HabiStat Heat Bulb (HBB100) running through a High Range HabiStat Dimming Thermostat (HTDWHR).

Dimming thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the Monitor.

Maintain night-time temperatures using a HabiStat Heat Mat running through a HabiStat Mat Stat if they are dropping too low.

Check temperatures regularly, using a reliable dual thermometer and hygrometer to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

Lighting

Fit the Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit 14% (RARTP39D) or alternatively the Arcadia LumenIZE Pro T5 14% (RARLZ39D) to the inside roof of the Vivarium,

Ensure that it is fitted correctly and within the manufacturer's recommended distances providing a UVI or 4-6.

Substrates and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your enclosure, but we recommend the following as a guide:

HabiStat Bearded Dragon Bedding (HSBDB10) will retain moisture for better burrowing and help maintain humidity.

Wood/branches for climbing, hiding, and sleeping on.

Live or artificial plant decoration will provide darker areas for the Ridge-Tailed Monitor to shelter.

DIET & WATER

Ridge-Tailed Monitors are mostly an insect eating species. Feed your monitor during the day when it is most active. Offer a varied range of appropriately sized insect.

Once a month try feeding a thawed frozen small rat or mouse as a treat.

Always provide a source of fresh water, ideally a large HabiStat Sandstone Water Dish (HRSSCL). Misting the enclosure will also allow for the maintenance and regulation of the enclosure humidity.

SUPPLEMENTATION

Following a supplementation regime that involves calcium and multivitamin powders such as HabiStat Pure Calcium (HMC40), HabiStat Reptavite (HMRV40), HabiStat Repton (HMR40) and Arcadia Earth Pro-A (RAREP100) will be beneficial to the health and wellbeing of the animal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ridge-Tailed Monitors have a large spinose tail which can be twice the size of the Monitor's body length. This spinose tail gives the species its other common name of 'Spiny-Tailed Monitor'.

Ridge-Tailed Monitors will shed their skin according to how big the Monitor is and how quickly it is growing. As a rule, the younger of the species will shed much more than the adults due to the growing process. Once adult, shedding only occurs two or three times a year.

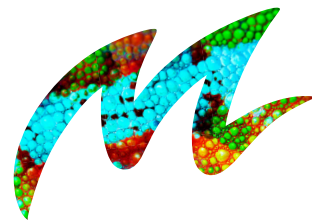
HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your animal healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	Change old water for fresh water	Spot clean	Check vents on enclosure are not blocked and allow air to pass through freely
Weekly	Disinfect water bowl or dish	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build-up and to allow any dirty bedding to be removed	Wipe down glass and walls with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Take out old substrate and replace with new substrate	Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling or feeding your animal, their food, enclosure and any other equipment using HabiStat Anti-Bac Spray (HABS) for any surface, and HabiStat Hand Sanitiser (HABG) for hand hygiene.



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HabiStat



DATA MONITORING



Complete this Sheet at the same time every day e.g. 12pm

	Hotspot Temp 42°C-48°C (108°F-118°F)	Background Temp 21°C-28°C (69°F-82°F)	Humidity 70%-80%	UVI 4-6	Night Time Temp 18°C-22°C (64°F-72°F)	Feeding
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wednesday						
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						
Sunday						