

# Mountain Horned Dragon Care Sheet



## Introduction

Found in humid forests, this tree dwelling species range from Burma, Thailand, Northern Malaysian Peninsula, Cambodia and Southern Vietnam. The Mountain Horned Dragon is a medium sized lizard; adults reach a size around 12" snout to vent. They generally have a grey background color with orange/red markings; others tend to be more yellow. Each individual animal varies in color. They have large orange/red eyes, large noticeable spines present on the back of the neck with smaller spines running along their back towards the tail.

## Housing

Being a tree dwelling lizard, the terrarium should be tall rather than long. Provide a minimum height of 2-3 feet. As with most reptiles, the larger the terrarium, the happier the animals will be. If you are planning on keeping more than one, ensure you calculate the size accordingly. For décor, provide large thick branches with live or artificial plants. The latter is cheaper, but real plants make the terrarium look natural and I'm sure your Mountain Horned Dragon will appreciate this more. The best plants to use are Orchids, Tillandsia, Ferns, Bromeliads, Pothos, Philodendrons, Peperomias, Palms, and many others. Ensure you do not place any poisonous plants in the enclosure. Although the Dragon will not eat the plants, insects may! Cleaning their cage is relatively easy. You should spot clean every couple of days removing any visible droppings and then perform a deep cleaning once a month by replacing bedding and disinfecting water bowls.

## Lighting

The use of a UV light is very important; this helps your Mountain Horned Dragon produce the vitamin D3 it requires. Although these are a forest dwelling species, we would recommend the use of a 5% UV light.

## Heating and Temps

This species needs to be kept cool and the ideal daytime temperature should range between 78F to 81F. Provide basking areas above branches, but never allow the temperature to exceed 86F throughout the terrarium. Allow a nighttime temperature of 70F. To help control the temperature within the terrarium, use a thermostat.

## Substrate

The best substrate to use has to be the compressed coconut bedding or reptibark – when water is added this swells and holds moisture in. This is excellent to keep the humidity levels high, as Mountain Horned Dragons require humidity at 70-80%. Misting twice a day can also help achieve the required levels. Another affective method is the use of a fogger. Place this on a timer to become active an hour before the lights turn on and an hour before they go off. It gives a very nice effect within the terrarium.

## Feeding and diet

These lizards are Insectivores; feed them on crickets, locusts, mealworms, wax worms and the other insects you may find like small spiders. Mountain Horned Dragons love earthworms! These are high in calcium and nutrients and are very cheap to purchase. You must be careful not to over feed them.

## Water

Water should be provided in a large water dish/container so that they may have a soak if required. It is important that the water is moving, as they do not recognize still water. You can achieve this by using an air stone attached to a pump or for a better affect, build a small waterfall inside the large water container. Dehydration is a big issue with these lizards, but if you take these steps you shouldn't have any problems.