

# Species Introduction

Bearded Dragons are a group of seven charming lizard species. They are adorable agamids that can be easily recognized by their spiky beards and long tails. They're super gentle, friendly, and intelligent and have a fairly easy tank set up.

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## Species Vital Facts

Common name	Bearded Dragon
Scientific name	<b><i>Pogona vitticeps</i></b>
Size	Adults can grow to be 24 inches long.
Weight	Adults can weigh as much as 18 ounces.
Life Expectancy	4-10 years

## Species Characteristics

Trait	1	5
<b>CARE</b>	Beginner (1)	
<b>TANK SETUP</b>	Easy (1)	
<b>TEMPERAMENT</b>	Friendly (1)	
<b>HANDLING</b>	Outgoing (5)	
<b>ACTIVITY LEVEL</b>	Moderate (3)	

You will then need to source a 15-30 word quote from a university professor or exotic vet that deals with this species in their research / clinic about their temperament.

## More About Bearded Dragons

As far as exotic pets go, Beardos are a very popular choice. They're an excellent beginner species for both kids and adults alike. They are well known for their gentle, loving, and inquisitive nature and are also pretty low-maintenance pets.

Bearded Dragons are super friendly and outgoing, making them a breeze to handle! They can fit right into a multi-pet household and can be tolerant of other pets in the house like cats and dogs. They're an ideal companion to have around, and enjoy the company of both their human and animal companions alike.

Bearded Dragons are native Australian species and can be found all over the continent, but they do have a bit of a soft spot for hot and arid regions like deserts. In the wild, they often curl up in the crevices between rocks, bask in the warm sand, or search for any insects that may be around. They are also quite curious. Generally, they like exploring their surroundings or enclosures. This makes them a great addition to any home that is looking for a pet that is both friendly **and** curious.

Beardos also respond well to handling. First time owners may be tempted to handle their hatchling lizards as soon as they acquire them but this is not the best practice. Adult lizards are always a better bet in terms of handling than juveniles and hatchlings. This is because hatchlings and juveniles are generally very skittish. So it is advisable for beginners to not handle them immediately.

As your lizard grows, try to handle them as gently as you can. You can start off by petting them with one or two fingers. Start at the base of their neck and work your way up to their tail.

Over time, as your lizard grows accustomed to your presence, you can build up to handling them more and may even be able to pick them up. Ensure that you don't rush this process. It is tempting to pick them up immediately after you accustomed them to gentle pets but getting familiar with your Beardo is a long drawn process. Build trust over time and pace your handling as per your lizard's comfort.

Beardos do not really require an elaborate or excessively expensive tank-set up. Rather, they just need a lot of space. Your Bearded Dragon enclosure should be at least 50 gallons large in terms of capacity.

With proper care and attention, they can live for up to 10 or even 15 years. This makes them incredible long-term companions.

## Taxonomy

Bearded dragons are members of the genus, **Pogona**, and family, **Agamidae** (lizards). Previously, they were classified in the genus **Amphibolurus**. **Amphibolurus** refers to a genus of agamids that are endemic to Australia and are generally semi-arboreal in their habit. Although

Beardos satisfy both of these criteria they have been moved from **Amphibolurus** and have since been placed in **Pogona**, their own genus. All the agamids in the genus **Pogona** are Beardos. The etymology of the genus, **Pogona**, can be traced back to Grecian roots as “Pogon” refers to a Beardo’s beard; the flap of skin on their chin. The genus consists of seven species (and several subspecies) of lizards. The seven species of Bearded Dragon are as follows:

Eastern Bearded Dragon (***Pogona barbata***)

Black-soil Bearded Dragon (***Pogona henrylawsoni***)

Mitchell’s Bearded Dragon (***Pogona mitchelli***)

Central Bearded Dragon (***Pogona vitticeps***)

North-Western Bearded Dragon (***Pogona microlepidota***)

Western Bearded Dragon (***Pogona minor***)

Nullarbor Bearded Dragon (***Pogona nullarbor***)

The most popular Dragon is the ***Pogona vitticeps*** or the Central Bearded Dragon. The species name, *vitticeps*, means "striped beard". ***Pogona vitticeps*** is the most common species of Bearded Dragon kept as a pet.

Living Thing	<b><i>Pogona vitticeps</i></b>
Kingdom	<b>Animalia</b>
Phylum	<b>Chordata</b>
SubPhylum	<b>Vertebrata</b>
Class	<b>Reptilia</b>
Order	<b>Squamata</b>
Suborder	<b>Iguania</b>
Family	<b>Agamidae</b>
Subfamily	<b>Amphibolurinae</b>
Genus	<b>Pogona</b>
Species	<b><i>vitticeps</i></b>

## Highlights

- Did you know that "Bearded Dragon" is actually a general term or name used to refer to a whole group (genus - **Pogona**) of seven species of lizards.
- Beardos are non-venomous lizards.

- Beardies are easy to care for; they are omnivores and will eat a variety of foods. Leaves, fruits, flowers, insects, other lizards, and rodents are all part of their diet. They are not picky eaters.
- All Beardos have a characteristic beard of spines that adorns their chins. These spines rest on a flap of epidermal tissue that can be projected and puffed up when the Beardos feel threatened by predators.
- Endemic to Australia, Beardos can be found all over the continent (including Tasmania) and prefer warm and arid habitats.
- Similar to other reptiles, Beardos are cold-blooded creatures that rely on external heat to maintain their body temperatures. Beardos can often be observed perched on the top of trees or on fence-posts while basking in the sun. They do this to regulate their body temperature.
- Beardos are semi-arboreal animals and spend a lot of time off the ground hidden away in trees or shrubs.
- Adult Dragons reach sizes anywhere between 18 to 24 inches. However, actual sizes may differ a bit according to species or subspecies.
- Bearded dragons resort to hibernation in cold weather events or seasons. However, they don't hibernate the way bears do. They don't completely go to sleep. Instead, they undergo a type of hibernation known as brumation.

## Habitat

From the Northern Territories all the way down to Tasmania, you can find Bearded Dragons all across Australia. The Eastern Bearded Dragon is especially common and is the most widespread species across the continent. They can be found in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and even as far as Victoria. Meanwhile, another species of the Bearded Dragon, the Dwarf or Western Bearded Dragon is also fairly common and is distributed in Western Australia, South Australia, and a few parts of the Northern Territory. A subspecies of the Western Bearded Dragon, the ***Pogona minor minima***, is the rarest Beardo on the continent and is only found on a few islands off the western coast of Australia.

In terms of habitat, Beardos prefer dry and arid regions, such as deserts. However, they're still fairly common in almost every kind of habitat found on the continent. For example, they can also be found in grasslands in the Northern regions, or even in the woodlands of Queensland and Tasmania. Bearded Dragons are not in danger of becoming threatened or endangered due to their expansive range. However, major threats to their distribution do exist. These major threats to Beardos' natural distribution, in their habitats, mostly come down to habitat loss due to land clearing for cattle grazing.

Bearded dragons are not protected by CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and are listed as a Least Concerned Species in the IUCN red list.

In Australia, a majority of **Pogona** species and subspecies are not protected under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Conservation Union	Status
IUCN	Least Concern
CITES	Not Protected

You will then need to source a 15-30 word quote from a university professor or ecologist regarding their habitat / where to find them in the wild.

## Caring For A Bearded Dragon

The Bearded Dragon is one of the most common pet reptiles in the world. Of the seven species currently reared in captivity, the Central Bearded Dragon is the most popular ( *Pogona vitticeps*) of them all. In the 1950s, these endemic Australian species were caught in the wild and then exported all over the world. This practice was quickly put to rest by the Australian government who banned the export of all endemic wildlife in the 1960s. Since then, breeders all over the world, mainly the US and the UK, have bred them in captivity.

They prefer warm and arid environments. Beardos are diurnal species that can commonly be found basking in the sunlight during the day. They're non-venomous lizards however they are generally defensive around people, in the wild. This is due to their highly territorial nature. An interesting fact about Bearded Dragons is their bipedal gait. When threatened, either in the wild or even in captive settings, they will raise their forelimbs off the ground and instead use their tail for balance and run away at a surprisingly fast pace.

We reached out to Katie Ott, the director of the [Central Virginia Reptile Rescue](#), to learn more about how she approaches caring for her own Beardos.

*"For my own personal animals, I prefer to make my setups to be as close to the animals' natural environment as possible, but with the rescue animals, I think it's best to make sure a new owner has the lighting/heating/humidity down first before they attempt bioactive or loose substrates."*

## Tank

When it comes to Bearded Dragon enclosure or vivariums, the simple rule to follow is that the bigger the better. Bearded Dragons need a lot of room. They're quite active species and will spend a lot of time scampering, running and climbing around their enclosure. There's a lot of factors to consider when setting up your Bearded Dragon's living set up. Let's find out what they are.

## Tank Size

In terms of size, most people usually opt for a 20 gallon tank in which they house their hatchlings however it is generally recommended to get a bigger tank from the get go.

This is because Beardos grow quite quickly and you might need to upgrade their initial tank as quick as a month in (1 month old Dragons need a considerably larger 30 gallon tank). So, it is generally good advice to get yourself **at least** a 50 gallon tank to house your Bearded Dragon.

Ideally, the tank should be big enough to house at least 2 or more hiding spots, a basking spot, a water dish, and a few climbing decors. If your Bearded Dragon is a sub-adult or an adult, make sure you buy a 75 gallon or 100 gallon tank.

This may seem excessively large but remember your tank should be at least three times the size of your lizard. Most adult Beardos can grow as large as 18 inches and require a tank that can accommodate them adequately. In terms of width, make sure that the tank is at least 16 inches (or more) wide so that your lizard can turn around without too much trouble.

## **Temperature**

As with most tank set ups for reptiles, you'll need to set up a temperature gradient in your tank. One side of your tank should be designated as the "warmer side" while the other side of your tank should be designated as the "cooler side".

During the day, the "warmer side" of the tank should have a temperature anywhere between 90-100°F (32-38°C) and the "cooler side" of the tank should be between 75-80°F (24-27°C). On the "warmer side" of your tank, you'll need to establish a daytime basking spot for your lizard. This basking spot specifically requires a higher temperature range between 95 °F to 110 °F. Keep in mind that these temperature ranges may differ by 5°F or so, depending on the age of your reptile. Consult with a veterinarian and appropriately set up a temperature gradient best suited to your lizard.

Fix two thermometers on either side of your tank so you can always check the temperature inside the tank. Further, to maintain the temperature gradient during the day, you can choose from a wide range of primary heat sources such as under tank heaters or heating mats. If these primary sources don't do the trick, you can always supplement with secondary sources such as ceramic heat emitters, or infrared spot lamps as well.

Take special care to ensure that all heat and light sources are placed outside the enclosure so that your lizard has zero possibility of ever being in direct contact with a heating or lighting fixture. Additionally, never use "sizzle rocks" or Hot rocks in your enclosure. It is incredibly dangerous and will cause burns to your lizard.

Make sure to have a IR-A or IR-B heat source in your tank as infrared radiation is very important for reptiles. This type of radiation helps them maintain their body temperature. The general rule to follow when it comes to buying IR bulbs is that the shorter the wavelength, the better the heat source.

At night, make sure to turn off your heat sources. This is because at night, you need to maintain an appropriate temperature of approximately 70°F. Alternatively, you can also set up timers that are automatically triggered to turn off all heat sources at night time.

All heating sources should be connected to a thermostat to ensure that the temperature gradient in the tank never strays beyond or under the appropriate range.

## **Lighting**

In the wild, Bearded Lizards come out in the day to bask. So naturally, your enclosure will need to mimic the natural 12 hour day-and-night cycle. You can install overhanging UV-A and UV-B lights aimed at the basking spot to accomplish this.

Make sure to leave your day light on for 12-14 hours during the day and switch it off at night. In winters, reduce light hours and only keep the basking light on for 10-12 hours. Similarly, in summer, increase light hours and keep the basking light on for longer durations.

Avoid using mercury vapor bulbs, coiled bulbs, or coloured bulbs as these can harm your lizard's eyesight. Instead when opting for lighting, linear fluorescent bulbs are always a good choice of UVB lighting that you can use in your enclosure. Make sure to turn off all light sources at night so your lizard can go to sleep without any unnatural distractions.

## Substrate

**Never** use sand or pebbles as substrate for your Bearded Dragon enclosures. Lizards will swallow these substrates and increase their risk of impaction. So it is good practice to avoid both of these as suitable substrates for your tank. Other unsafe substrates include cedar shavings or wood shavings, potting soil, and crushed corn cob.

If you are setting up your substrate, you can use astroturf, newspaper, rubber shelf liners, and even paper towels or reptile carpet as well. Reptile Carpet in particular is good for any type of enclosure and has zero health risks. The only downside to using reptile carpet as your substrate is that it will need to be cleaned quite often.

Bearded Dragons are also semi-arboreal and will need decorations or holds that they can climb on in their tanks. Make sure to include many hiding spots for your lizard to sneak away into. Ideally, it is good practice to have a hide on each side of the tank. Spray the hide in the "cooler side" of the tank to create a wet hide. Your lizard can make use of this space to shed their old skin off more easily. Ensure that your basking spot has an elevated perch or rock for your lizard to take in the heat.

## Humidity

Ideal humidity for a Bearded Dragon enclosure should be maintained between 30 to 35 percent during both night and day.

It is highly important not to stray from this humidity range as humidity is a very important factor that influences shedding in your lizard.

To increase humidity levels, you can gently mist water directly into the enclosure once a day or even use absorbent substrate and decor like live plants, live moss and natural wood logs, etc. Affix two hygrometers to measure the humidity levels in your enclosure. Place one on each side of the enclosure.

Another important thing to remember about humidity is that too much humidity is as harmful as too little of it.

According to Dr. Katie Bell, one of the founders at the [Georgia Herp Association and Rescue](#), we should aim to mimic Bearded Dragons' habitats in the wild as much as possible. This includes varying their humidity exposure to similar levels as they would experience in arid Australian landscapes.

*“Beardies are indigenous to drier environments-that being said, Australia's humidity varies widely.”*

For regions with high humidity, Dr. Bell also suggests keeping smaller water bowls or forgoing water bowls all together.

*“One big issue that many new owners accidentally introduce is the inclusion of water bowls in habitats. The Department of Agriculture mandates that all animals being sold in stores have access to clean water, which forces pet store owners to include water bowls in their bearded dragon habitats and this directly gives the wrong information to new owners. In moderation, water in the habitat can be fine, but what we tend to see a lot of with the rescue is bearded dragons coming in with upper RIs, more than likely due the presence of deep water bowls having been in their habitats. The high heat in the enclosure causes the water to evaporate, making a humid environment that the beardie shouldn't have. Water is best given to bearded dragons either directly on their salads or via a bath twice a week.”*

**(I received quotes from two rescue centers and felt that this quote in particular made more sense here as it directly pertains to humidity.)**

## Health Problems

A common problem Bearded dragons are susceptible to is **Rot**. Rots are a type of bacterial infection. In particular, many lizards can contract Tail rot. Individuals with tail rot will exhibit physical symptoms such as brown coloration of their tail. As the rot worsens, their tail will fall off and die. Juveniles and sub-adults are the most likely to contract tail rot.

It is incredibly important to keep your enclosure healthy as poor tank maintenance practices such as tardy cleaning, incorrect lightening, or even a lack of hides can all contribute to your lizard contracting Tail Rot.

Apart from rots, lizards are also very susceptible to respiratory infections or RIs. Generally, high humidity and low temperatures can cause RIs however, similar to Tail rot, even infrequent cleaning can also lead to RIs. Classic symptoms of RIs include wheezing, reduced activity or lethargy and an increased tendency to practice open mouth breathing.

Some lizards will also struggle with shedding. If you notice your Bearded Dragon struggling with shedding, do not attempt to help them. Taking off the shed too soon can damage the nascent scales underneath. Rather, check if the humidity levels in your enclosure have strayed from the appropriate range as often low humidity is one of the main culprits that contribute to poor shedding.

Look out for signs of impaction as well. Impaction is caused by improper substrates such as sand or pebbles. When your lizard feeds on a prey they may accidentally ingest the substrate that cause a blockage in their intestines. Classic signs of impaction are when your Beardo is regularly still eating but no longer defecating.

## Lifespan

Although Bearded dragons make great pets for beginners, they do require a bit of commitment since they can live for up to 10 years, and in some cases even 15 years!



This means that when you decide to buy a Bearded dragon, you should be prepared for a long-term commitment; in addition to the regular feeding, housing, and veterinary care, you will need to provide them with a consistent and enriched environment that will enable them to reach their full potential.

In the wild, Bearded Dragons have a shorter lifespan due to unavoidable and unpredictable factors such as predation or environmental conditions like temperature, and resource availability.

It can be tricky to know exactly how old your Bearded dragon is, but you can make an informed guess and deduce an approximation by looking for hemipenal bulges or checking the size of their cloacal apertures or tails, etc.

In addition, Bearded Dragons grow and change rapidly during their first two years of life, so it is important to monitor your pet's growth and development to make sure your Bearded dragon is healthy and happy.

## Diet

Bearded Dragons are incredible creatures that have the unique ability to adapt their diet to the environment. In the wild, Beardedos are ambush hunters. This means that they wait for prey and stalk after it and then rapidly strike at them. So, you can feed your Beardedos live insects with tweezers to keep them mentally satiated and enriched.

They're incredibly opportunistic eaters and are not too picky. They are omnivores by habit and can easily switch between a plant-based diet of leaves and flowers and a meat-based diet of other lizards or small mammals such as rats, depending on what is available. It is especially important for growing juvenile Bearded Dragons to feed on as much protein as they can catch a hold of. So, their diet, even in the wild, differs a bit from Adult Beardedos. They particularly enjoy feasting on insects like termites, beetles, and flies.

If you're raising a Beardo in captivity, you have the privilege of choosing from a wide range of foods for their diet. From leafy greens like broccoli or kale to vegetables like bell peppers, zucchini, or carrots, and even insects like termites, beetles, or flies.

In terms of a feeding schedule, you can feed your adult lizard 1-2 insects per feeding at least two times a day. Do not feed them for more than 10 or 15 minutes. An adult Bearded Dragon's diet should contain more plants and greens than insects. So, make sure you feed them salads every day or every other day depending on your individual lizard's appetite.

You can also lightly dust the insects with a calcium powder (to counter metabolic bone disorders) every two days as well as an additional supplement.

In terms of hatchlings and juveniles, make sure that their diet also contains a healthy dose of finely chopped veggies and fruit.

As a special treat, offering seasonal fruits like mango can be a great way to spice up their diet. It is important to remember, however, not to overfeed them - too much food can make them feel sluggish and lethargic. Feeding them one or two meals per day is typically enough to keep them healthy and happy.

# Behavior

In the wild, Adult Bearded Dragons are very vocally territorial. They tend to be happiest when left alone. Adult males especially are well known for their territorial or dominant displays of behavior. Male bearded dragons are also particularly territorial during breeding season and will defend their territory from other males in the area with aggressive displays. These aggressive displays include puffing out their beards or adopting a bipedal posture.

These displays might be accompanied by hissing sounds, and they might also engage in similar displays when fighting for food or competing for a female. Aggressive and dominant behaviors become especially exaggerated during this time of the year.

Males become increasingly dominant towards both other males and potentially available females. In some cases, a male bearded dragon might even take it a step further, attacking a female if she does not submit to him. This can be quite a dangerous situation, so it is best to take precautions when housing multiple bearded dragons together.

In terms of communication with other bearded dragons or any other species, observing the head of the dragon is important. The beard changes color according to the dragon's mood, and the dragon will bob its head to communicate its temperament. Slow bobs indicate submission, while quick bobs indicate dominance. Additionally, during courtship, male bearded dragons will perform a dramatic display in order to entice potential mates.

This display involves pounding their feet, waving their arms and bobbing their heads. After the ritualistic display is complete, the male will often pursue the female and attempt to pin down the available female by biting her neck from the back. This is their way of attempting to successfully mate with the female, but it can be potentially dangerous.

Overall, it is wise to be mindful of the territorial or dominant displays of bearded dragons. Taking the necessary precautions and leaving them alone to observe their behavior will help ensure that bearded dragons are able to thrive in their natural environments.

# Appearance

Bearded dragons are incredibly beautiful creatures! They have a wide body that's supported by short and stout limbs that terminate into sharp claws at the end of their digits. Effectively, this enables the body to hang quite low to the ground while walking or running. In fact, when they lay down, they almost "hug" the ground.

They use their claws to easily climb trees (after all, they are semi-arboreal). They have an easy to recognise triangular head with ear holes on either side.

In terms of how to identify them, you can't go wrong by focussing on what gives them their name - the tuft of spines under their chin, known as the "beard". They also have a series of spines that run along the length of their body which they can puff out to warn predators or people.

Even their tails are dead giveaways. Beardos' tails can be as long as their entire body or even longer.

Wild Beardo colors can range from yellowish, brown or tan, but through selective breeding, breeders have been able to produce a range of morphs in a variety of colors, including red, yellow, orange, and the popular white-colored Leucistic morph.

Males and females can be sexed easily when they age, with males having bigger heads and brighter coloration, and females having narrower, more slender tails.

To tell sex adults, look for hemipenal bulges beneath the lower surface of the tail. Two bulges indicate an adult male, and one bulge indicates an adult female. Another way to tell males from females is to observe their tails. Males will generally have thicker tails while a female's tail tends to be narrower and more slender.

Be careful if it's the first time you're sexing by looking for hemipenal bulges. Incorrect handling of a lizard can cause it to undergo stress and injury.

## Size

To track their development, Beardos are generally classified in one of four categories. These categories are:

- Hatchling (up to 2 months of age);
- Juvenile (up to 6 months of age);
- Sub Adult (up to a year of age);
- Adult (a year or greater).

Hatchlings	4-9 inches
Juveniles	8-18 inches
Sub Adults	8-18 inches
Adults	8-18 inches

It's important to note that these sizes aren't set in stone but should just be used as a general average against which you can track your Beardo.

As selective breeding grows increasingly popular, breeders can even breed for Beardos specifically based on size preferences as well and can produce smaller or larger pets as per desired.

## Rescue and Adoption

We reached out to Katie Ott again to learn more about why Beardos are generally abandoned after purchase. According to Ott, although Bearded Dragons are one of the most popular pet reptiles, this doesn't mean that they don't need any care at all.

*“There is a lot of work that goes into caring for these guys, and when adopting out rescues to people, I typically check to see if they are prepared to take on the daily responsibility requirements (UVB, heating, diet). As part of my application process, I make sure potential adopters have done their research and have a basic understanding of care.”*

Ott also added that she thinks the label of “beginner” pets does disillusion people quite a bit.

*“Many of the dragons that come to our rescue are surrendered when they are 2 years old. What that says to me is that it became very challenging to care for them in a short time period, so labeling them as a beginner pet probably isn’t a good idea.”*

## **Reproduction**

The general pattern noticed is that Bearded Dragons breed on warmer days in mid to late february. Males become sexually mature at 18 months while females take a bit more time and begin to show signs of sexual maturity at around 24 months.

Generally, for males, their throats will turn a jet black color and will exhibit exaggerated head bobbing to convey an interest and availability to any sexually available females in the vicinity. Females similarly respond to the male’s dramatic displays with arm waving behavior to convey their appeasement and receptivity.

However, males will show increased levels of dominance and aggression towards other males in the area and can even get aggressive with unreceptive females as a desperate ploy to successfully copulate with them.

The male dragon will run after and chase down the female until she submits or will bite down on her neck to pin her down and copulate with her.

Do not be surprised if your sole female bearded dragon lays eggs. It is not uncommon for Beardo females to lay down infertile eggs.

4 to 6 weeks after successful copulation, the gravid female will begin to lay her eggs. If you notice that your gravid female seems to consume less food and is lethargic around this time, do not worry as it is generally an indicator that the female lizard is ready to lay down her eggs. Generally, a clutch of eggs will be around 20 eggs in size. As the breeding season runs for around four months, females may lay several clutches of eggs in one season.

Your female lizard will begin to start digging around the corners of her enclosure to search for a safe and suitable spot to deposit her eggs. Typically, eggs will hatch after an average of two months. 2-4 days prior to hatching, you may notice that the eggs deflate in size. This indicates that the baby dragons are nearing hatching time and is generally accompanied by an accumulation of moisture on the egg.

Baby Beardos have a small tooth on the tip of their snout that they will use to break free from inside the egg. It is always good practice to let the lizards break free from the eggs on their own. Do not attempt to pull or force a baby Beardo from its egg.

You will then need to source a 15-30 word quote from a professional breeder about breeding this species.

## Did You Know?

- Did you know that bearded dragons can really pick up the pace when they need to? Believe it or not, they can hit speeds of 15 kilometers per hour when running away from a threat!
- Bearded dragons are resourceful too – they don't pee like we do, but instead release a paste called "urate", which is made up of uric acid. This helps them to conserve water, and is an adaptation that has allowed them to survive in arid climates.
- You might find them leaning against the walls of their tank when it's time for a nap. That's right - Beardos can sleep while standing upright.
- Another fun fact – bearded dragons can actually change their sex depending on their environment. This means that if the environment changes, the gender ratio of the population can change too.