

Baker's Spiny-tailed Iguana

<u>Average Adult Size</u>	10 inches;
<u>Average Life Span with proper care</u>	13.8 years;
<u>Diet</u>	Primarily herbivorous , although it can be an <i>opportunistic carnivore</i>

Enclosure

Medium Used in Enclosure

Cypress Mulch Substrate

Mist their enclosures in the morning to replicate the high morning humidity of their natural habitat

Rabbit pellets can also be used, but do not mist these

Habitat for Enclosure

They love to climb, bask, and burrow

Provide plenty of branches and/or corkboard for your spiny-tails to climb on. Various hide spots, such as cork bark hollows of appropriate size, should also be provided. It may also be good to include live edible plants, such as hibiscus, of which both the flowers and leaves are edible. Purchase plants at least 30 days before you plan to use them, as many systemic pesticides and fertilizers may remain active in the plants and soil for at least 30 days.

Temperature and Humidity Control used in Enclosure

Spiny-tailed iguanas are sun-loving saurians, the ambient temperature in the enclosure should be between 75 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit with basking areas reaching 95 to 105 degrees.

Indoor enclosures should have full-spectrum bulbs running two-thirds to the entire length of the enclosure, in addition to a basking bulb (or two, depending on the size of the cage) at one end. To provide maximum health benefit from the full-spectrum

lights, basking shelves or other sites should be situated no more than 10 inches from the bulb(s).

High humidity in their cage, which should be kept at around 70%

Helps to prevent poor shedding and kidney disease.

You can increase the humidity in the cage by providing your iguana with a large pool of water (at least $\frac{1}{3}$ the size of the enclosure), or by purchasing a mister. You should mist your iguana at least twice a day to increase the humidity and to promote skin health.

Diet

Live

Only the young spiny tailed iguanas eat live insects

feed baby some insects, particularly crickets about half the size of the young lizards' heads

Plants

The Iguanas generally eat and rely on plants as their main diet their whole lives

Such as mixed greens, shredded carrots, mulberry and hibiscus leaves, and edible wild plants such as purslane, clover, dandelions, greens and flowers. Seasonal fruit and vegetables can also be offered.

Water

Water misting is my preferred method of watering

They will drink the droplets off the plants, especially hatchlings and juvenile. You can also keep a water dish inside the enclosure; be sure it's heavy enough so it doesn't tip over. Misting into the water dish can help draw your spiny-tails' attention to it. Do not mist if you use rabbit pellets as a substrate.

Supplements/Exercise

Calcium and vitamin supplements should be provided two to three times a week

To avoid feeding your iguana a diet that is deficient in calcium, you can obtain a calcium carbonate supplement that you can put into its food to ensure that your iguana gets the calcium it needs. Gravid females should receive supplemental calcium every day

Basic exercise that these animals can benefit from

The Iguanas love to climb. Providing enough space to ensure they have branches and ledges to climb on will be more than enough to keep them active and healthy

Temperament

Spiny-tailed iguanas Generally Ill-Tempered, however, not true for all Iguanas. Here's a quick breakdown of some generally common Spiny Tailed Iguanas Temperament

*Captive-born-and-bred Mexican spiny-tails (*C. pectinata*) and Baker's iguanas (*C. bakeri*) can make great pets with very little effort. The San Esteban Island spiny-tailed iguana (*C. conspicuosa*), Sonoran black iguana (*C. macrolopha*) and Honduran black-chested iguana (*C. melanosterna*) can also tame down quite nicely with a little effort and patience. Wild-caught Guatemalan spiny-tailed (*C. palearis*) and club-tailed (*C. quinquacarinata*) iguanas can make great display animals, and with time they will often take food from your hand.*