

Answers

1. Explain how bearded dragons came to be known by this name.
Bearded dragons came by their name because they have spikey folds of skin around their neck which inflate and turn black when they get excited or look to protect themselves.
2. Why do you think their captive environment needs to replicate their natural environment?
Answers will vary. Possible points: they need to be healthy/ they are animals and need to be comfortable where they live/ their bodies are reliant on having particular conditions (ectothermic).
3. Explain why the vivarium needs to be secure and large.
The vivarium needs to be secure so that the lizard is safe and cannot escape. It needs to be large because bearded dragons grow to 45cm long and need to move around and stretch out.
4. A thermostat must be installed to 'ensure the temperature doesn't fluctuate'. What does this mean?
To 'ensure the temperature doesn't fluctuate' means that the thermostat will make sure that the temperature stays the same and doesn't go up or down.
5. A new owner of a bearded dragon is planning to put newspaper in the bottom of the vivarium. Explain what you think of this idea, and what other suggestions would you make?
I would tell the new owner that I don't think this is a good idea because bearded dragons instinctively like to dig, and they can't dig in newspaper. I would suggest they put a sand and soil mixture down so that the dragon can dig in it, as if it were in their natural environment.
6. Why do you think the live food that will be fed to the dragon needs to be fed and looked after?
I think that the live food needs to be fed and looked after because the dragon eats living food so it needs to be healthy in order to keep the dragon healthy too.

7. What is the purpose of putting a powder supplement on the live food before giving it to the dragon?

The purpose of putting a powder supplement on the live food before giving it to the dragon is to make sure it is getting all the nutrients it needs, as it would in the wild.

8. Your friend is going to get a much larger vivarium and put three bearded dragons in there. What would you tell them?

I would tell my friend that they should only keep one bearded dragon at a time, because they are territorial. The males chase each other off their space and the females bite the toes off other lizards and sometimes kill them.

9. A bearded dragon has a swollen leg and one of its muscles is twitching. What could be wrong with it, what could have caused it and what might help, until you can get it to a reptile expert?

If the bearded dragon has a swollen leg and one of its muscles is twitching, it could be suffering from a lack of calcium. One problem might be that it needs a UV light in the vivarium in order to make vitamin D in the skin, which helps the storage and use of calcium in the body. Also, it should not be given spinach because this stops calcium being absorbed within the body.

10. Write a definition for each of these words:

Diurnal - an animal which is active during the day.

Omnivore - an animal which eats animals and plants.

Ectothermic - an animal that uses its environment to control its body temperature.