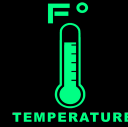


## Dwarf Caiman Crocodile



**UNDERGROUND  
REPTILES**



- Tank Temperatures: The tank should have a basking (warm) side that is heated to between 90F - 95F, and an ambient (cool) side that hangs around 80F - 85F. The water should be room temperature.
- Heat Lighting: Babies being housed in a 40 gallon tank will typically require a 125-150 watt bulb to achieve these temperatures.
- UVB Lighting: A 13 watt or 26 watt (depending on animal size) 5.0 UVB bulb is perfect for this reptile.



A 60-70% humidity level can be maintained by creating a water area or swimming area for your caiman. This section should be fairly large given that these animals are semi-aquatic.



- Food: The reptiles will feed on live rodents, live crickets, live superworms, live crayfish, live earthworms, feeder fish (rosy reds, minnows).
- Supplement: None needed with properly varied diet and correct lighting.



- Enclosure Size: A baby can start off in a 40 gallon. Adults need a tank that is 6' x 3' x 4'.
- Substrate (bedding): The terrestrial, or land side, can consist of mulch, moss, and rocks
- Accessories: You will also need a water filter and branching that can handle moisture.



Caiman crocodiles are a more difficult animal to care for. They are expensive to maintain, require a lot of space, and are very aggressive. Only the most experienced reptile keepers should take on this animal.



Mating typically takes place between May and August. The eggs are laid between July and August and can vary between 14 to 40 eggs. Usually, the eggs are laid in a mound constructed from soil.



This species uses its tail as its method of propulsion when it swims.



**Native to North and Central South America**

