

## Caiman Lizard



- Tank Temperatures: The tank should have a basking (warm) side that is heated to between 100F - 110F, and an ambient (cool) side that hangs around 80F - 85F.
- Heat Lighting: To achieve these temperatures for a baby in a 30-40 gallon tank, a 125-150 watt basking light should suffice. However, you will need to increase your wattage beyond 200 as your tank exceeds 55 gallons.
- UVB Lighting: A 13 watt or 26 watt 10.0 UVB bulb is perfect for these animals.



- Humidity: A 60-80% humidity level can be achieved by daily mistings, moist substrate, and an area designated for swimming. These lizards are semi aquatic.



- Food: Diet should consist of Frozen and then thawed periwinkle snails, live apple snails, canned snails, live superworms, canned shrimp, crickets, fish (salmon, tilapia, pollock)
- Supplement: Calcium with D3 should be used on every meal and a Multivitamin should be used on every other meal.



- Enclosure Size: A 40 gallon tank works well for babies. Adults need a tank that is 6' x 3' x 4'.
- Substrate (bedding): These lizards should have cypress mulch, Eco Earth or another compressed coconut based substrate for their terrestrial side.
- Accessories: Hut, cork rounds, reptile safe synthetic plants, large branching that should hover over the aquatic area, are all great accessories for this animal's enclosure.



Caiman lizards are an intermediate animal to care for primarily due to dietary needs. Temperament ranges from super docile to moody, however the more they are handled the better they will respond to human interaction.



Lay five to seven fertilized eggs per clutch, with an incubation period of about 179 days. In the wild, they lay their eggs in holes in the riverbank, which they then cover.



These lizards are closely related to tegus. They have molars used for crushing snail shells.



**Native to Central and South America**

