Basic Husbandry of the Green Iguana
Avian and Exotic Animal Care
919-844-9166

Biological Facts:

- Life span 9-12 years
- Gestation of 73-93 days
- Tree dwelling Lizard.

Behavior:

- Most time is spent basking in the sun
- Iguanas are not social animals. They become accustomed to human touching, but excessive handling may cause stress.
- Highly territorial

Diet:

- Mimic the natural diet. Provide salads of clean fresh dark leafy green vegetables daily such as kale, escarole, endive, collard, greens, mustard greens, turnip greens and leaf lettuce (not iceberg lettuce).
- Also diced yellow squash, zucchini and grated carrots.
- Pellets may be used to supplement the diet, can lead to obesity if feed in excess.
- Calcium supplements such as Rep-Cal may be dusted over the salad greens once or twice daily.

Housing:

- Prepare a large natural habitat.
- Provide plenty of vertical space and branches or platforms for climbing.
- A temperature gradient should be created. The cool side no lower than 78 degrees and a basking spot up to 90-95 degrees.
- Use ceramic heat emitters and under the cage heat sources. Heat rocks can cause severe burns.
- Ultraviolet light in the UVB spectrum is essential with at least 5.0-7.0 percent UVB.
- Provide a large water dish for drinking and soaking.
- Newspaper and reptile carpet are used to line bottom of enclosure.

Preventive Care:

- Bi-annual physical examinations and fecal exams on an annual basis.
- Chemistry panel and complete blood count are recommended once every other year.
- Spaying and neutering.

Common Medical Conditions requiring Veterinary attention:

- Medical conditions commonly observed in iguanas include metababolic bone disease, abscesses, thermal burns, kidney problems, egg binding in females and internal/external parasites. Prolapsed hemipens are also common.