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AGAMAS

Frilled Lizard

Chlamydosaurus kingii

Chlamydosaurus kingii is a large, arboreal agamid from northern Australia and southern New Guinea. It is known for the large frill of skin around the neck, which it flares in a threat display. It reaches 60-90 cm, is diurnal and feeds on insects. In return it requires a very tall enclosure, strong heat and UVB, and it is shy and easily stressed.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Clamydosaurus kingii* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**60-90 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**400-870 g**
Lifespan	**8-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Savanna and dry forest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 75 × 150 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-32 °C**
Basking spot	**38-42 °C**
Temperature, night	**23-27 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**24-36 months**
Clutch size	**4-20 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-4**
Incubation	**70-110 days** at 28-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
An adult needs an enclosure of at least 150 × 75 × 150 cm (length × width × height). Height is more important than floor area, because the species is arboreal, and how high the animal can sit gives it security.

TEMPERATURE
The basking spot should be at the top of the enclosure and have a surface temperature of 38-42 °C, with about 40 °C as a starting point.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Humidity should be 60-70 %, and the enclosure should be misted. The species lives in a climate with heavy rain in summer and drinks water droplets. A rain system running a couple of times a day suits best.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species is diurnal and basks, so it needs strong light over the whole enclosure and a basking spot with heat and UVB light.

FEEDING
Chlamydosaurus kingii is an insectivore. The diet consists of crickets, cockroaches, caterpillars, silkworms and the occasional superworm. Termites and ants are the most important prey in the wild.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
C. kingii is calm and sedentary in the enclosure, but shy of movements in the room. Some animals tolerate being taken out, but handling easily stresses them, and the animal may hiss, flare the frill and bite.

NATIVE RANGE
Australia, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.