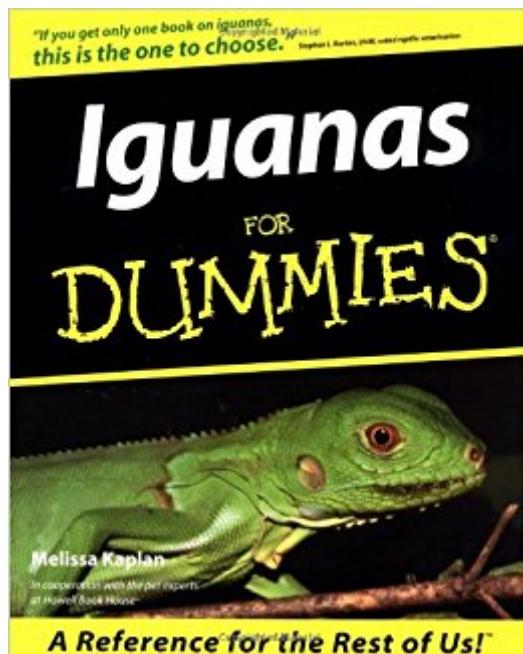


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# Iguanas For Dummies



## Synopsis

Big, green, scaly, and surprisingly cuddly, a well-adjusted iguana is like a cross between large, friendly dog and an independent cat. On the other hand, a poorly trained iguana can be a living nightmare. With his muscular, three-to-four-foot-long tail and 116-120 razor-sharp teeth, a nasty iguana can be a genuine danger to life, limb and property. Iguanas require a constant 90-degree Fahrenheit environment and lots of room to range around in. *Iguanas For Dummies* lets you take a long, well-informed look before leaping into the exotic world of iguanas. Written by one of the most respected experts on the care and feeding of iguanas, this fun, entertaining book fills you in on everything you need to know to successfully adopt, nurture, live with and love an iguana. You'll discover how to: Decide if an iguana is right for you Feed and house your iguana properly Keep your iguana healthy Bond with your scaly friend Integrate your green amigo into your life Socialize and train your mini-dinosaur Ideal for first-time and veteran iguana owners alike, *Iguanas For Dummies* is a gold mine of advice, guidance and tested-in-the-trenches tips on: Iguanas 101: history, anatomy, physiology and different species What you should know and what to look for when shopping for an iguana Housing your iguana includes tips on buying or building an enclosure and how to create a safe environment for a free-roaming iguana How to feed your iguana and how often Health issues, concerns and treatments Breeding iguanas for fun and profit Whether you're thinking about getting an iguana, or you already have a whole herd of big green herbivores, this fun, friendly guide will answer all your questions.

## Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: For Dummies; 1 edition (August 15, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0764552600

ISBN-13: 978-0764552601

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.8 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (45 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #655,653 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #127 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Reptiles & Amphibians

## Customer Reviews

Like most "Dummies" books, this resource guide offers pretty much everything you need to know

about its subject. (Iguanas in this case.) It covers iguana history, habits (both in nature and captivity), common illnesses, requirements for housing and feeding, and even a section on taming and training. Melissa Kaplan has definitely done her homework, and continues to do so with her online research web site, [anapsid.org](http://anapsid.org). The only complaint I have in this book, is that aside from the "About the Author" section at the beginning, there really isn't any indication Kaplan actually raises iguanas. The book lists many options when it comes to enclosures and feeding, but it would be nice if the author specified what exactly she does for her own pets, or provide specific examples of what has happened (good or bad) in the raising of her reptiles. Other than that minor complaint, I enjoyed reading this book and have already used it numerous times as a resource for determining the best course of action for raising my own lizard.

Green Iguanas everywhere are rejoicing at the release of the new book, "Iguanas for Dummies", by Melissa Kaplan. Ms. Kaplan, a longtime iguana caretaker and wildlife rehabilitator who is well-known and respected in iguana keeper circles and on the internet for her willingness to share the results of her years of experience with iguanas and other reptiles as well as the quality of her advice on their care, has written a thorough and easy to understand guide to iguana keeping that does not sugar coat the numerous responsibilities and demands (not to mention cost!) of housing and maintaining a healthy iguana. As an iguana owner myself, I have no one but Ms. Kaplan to thank for keeping me from killing my iguana through ignorance. Her excellent website, and now this book, will cause many iguana owners to owe her their thanks for a healthy iguana. This book should also be read by anyone who does not own an iguana yet, but is considering getting one. This book will let you know exactly what you're in for. There is a wealth of information in "Iguanas for Dummies" covering everything from diet to egg-laying. Information is easy to find, easy to read and understand. If you own an iguana or are considering becoming an iguana keeper, you need this book!

Living in the Florida Keys we have dealt extensively with discarded Iguanas - perhaps 15 or more. People buy them, and get rid of them constantly - and down here, in the semi-tropics, they can survive (with difficulty) in the wild. With all the iguana problems we have encountered good information is a necessity, & we have purchased many iguana books including Hatfield's "Green Iguana, the Ultimate Owners Guide" (a great book, but we still prefer Kaplan's "Iguanas for Dummies"). If you still want additional technical data you can add "What's Wrong with My Iguana" by John Rossi M.A., D.V.M. and "Understanding Reptile Parasites" by Roger Klingenberg D.V.M. Kaplan's book is based on research & a lot of personal experience. It is thorough, and her

experience shows through - there are tidbits of information that have been useful to us that we have not found elsewhere. She has long maintained a caring website to help iguana owners and potential iguana buyers - not just to sell books. And the price of this book is reasonable. By all means get a good book like Hatfield's or Kaplan's - preferably before you get an iguana. Even if the book talks you out of getting an ig for a pet it will be well worth the price. Proper care for an iguana involves a devoting a lot of time and spending a lot of money. The cost of the animal is nothing in comparison, and they are far more complex to care for than a dog, cat, or hamster. Judging from the number of abandoned iguanas in the Florida Keys a huge number of people do not bother to inform themselves and the animals suffer. It may not be entirely their fault. Many pet stores do not seem to offer the best books or accurate information - often they just want to sell a hapless reptile, and make a few bucks on inadequate (sometimes dangerous) supplies and food. They frequently give bad advice. Whatever book you get you will still need to get a good experienced herp vet., and they are hard to find. Things go wrong with iguanas that are not covered with specificity in any of these books. We have been unfortunate enough to encounter some of them.

This book is an excellent resource for both novice and so-called expert Iguana owners. It would be especially useful for any prospective Iguana owner. Iguanas grow to be very big lizards in a relatively short period of time. They can be aggressive, and territorial. There are many husbandry requirements that the local pet store will never tell you. In fact, if you follow most pet stores advice, you will end up with a dead Iguana. This book should help prevent this from happening. The first chapter is regarding whether the Iguana is the right pet for you. It should be read before deciding on an Iguana as a pet. remember, these are not domesticated animals. There are also excellent chapters on housing, feeding, and socialization of Iguanas. Finally the book disproves much misinformation provided by older books, and disseminated by pet stores. For instance, many pet stores suggest feeding cat food to juvenile Iguanas. What they don't tell you is that while this results in a quick growing Iguana, it also results in an Iguana dying at about four years of age from kidney failure. There is an excellent resource section in the appendix, with useful websites and references to manufacturers of various reptile products including cages, food, and heating systems. This book should be required reading before the purchase of any Iguana.

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