



5435, chemin de Chambly  
Saint-Hubert, J3Y 3P2, QC  
(450) 443-1461

## Nile monitor



Adequate temperature		
	Hot spot	Cold spot
Day temperature	35 °C	28 °C
Night temperature	28 °C	23 °C

### Main Features :

The monitor lizard is the monitor that is found most frequently in captivity. This tropical species can reach the age of 15 and measures up to 2 meters, including the tail. The monitor is an animal of nervous nature who, when he feels in danger, whips his opponent with his tail. Its powerful jaw can cause serious injury, so it is definitely not recommended for beginners. The male can be differentiated from the female by the following characteristics: the male is usually larger than the female and the presence of a bulge under the tail (hemipenis).

### Captivity:

The Nile monitor should have a room specially designed for it and this room should be equipped with a heating system and a lighting system emitting ultraviolet rays. It is imperative for the monitor of the Nile to have a pool of water where he can swim at his convenience. Humidity (50%) and temperature (see table above) should be carefully monitored to maintain the health of your monitor. To maintain the proper temperature, the use of a heat lamp not accessible is recommended. The carpet must be installed under the terrarium to avoid any direct contact. If the animal has access to the heating source, the risks of burns are close to 100%. A reptile does not feel the heat on its skin, it is only once it is too late that it feels the wound. Due to the degree of humidity and the presence of the water basin, it is not recommended to put it in a room with gypsum walls. The monitor must have a UVB lamp in its habitat! This lamp is essential to its good health because it provides a source of calcium that is normally provided by the sun. This lamp should work 10-12h per day and be changed every 6 months to maintain its effectiveness! At night, this lamp must be off, unlike the heat lamp which must work all day. In order to better control the time of exposure to UVB light, the degree of humidity and to maintain an adequate temperature, it is strongly recommended to obtain a thermometer and a hygrometer to better control the variants. The ideal is to get a thermostat that will regulate the temperature and humidity and a timer to better control the UV lighting time, but it is important to make sure that it always works, even after several years! For the substrate (bottom mat), a grass mat may be ideal as an option because it is easy to clean. If you use this kind of carpet, it is important not to install it on a non-washable surface, such as a wood floor. A gravel or sand substrate is not recommended because of the risk of the animal ingesting

this product, which can cause intestinal blockage. For all these reasons, the monitor is not a reptile to adopt when living in an apartment.

### **Food:**

The monitor lizard is a strict carnivore! It is therefore obligatory to provide him with prey so that he can feed himself and satisfy his predatory instinct. In the wild, they feed on crabs, molluscs, fish, rats, mice, bird eggs and even crocodilians. In domestic life, you can offer him rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, eggs, etc. If your pet tolerates it, you can give the dead animals (from where you know the source) to minimize the risk of injury.



### **Frequent health problems:**

- **Metabolic Bone Disease:** The lizard may suffer from anorexia, tremors, swelling around the bones, lethargy or bone malformations due to old fractures.
- **Infections:** Infections can occur in the mouth (stomatitis), on the skin (bacterial or fungal) or in the form of abscess. This condition is often the cause of poor nutrition, excess moisture or poor hygiene.
- **Parasites:** A lizard can sometimes catch parasites in many ways, such as having been outside, being in a boarding house or pet store or coming from their live food (mice, insects, etc.). If the animal is not treated following the appearance of parasites, it could become anemic and die. Parasites feed on your pet's blood, where they can find the nutrients they need for survival.
- **Moult problem:** A reptile moults several times a year. The moult consists of a change of skin. The animal grows up and the scales become too tight on it. He develops new ones and the old ones have to leave. A moult problem occurs when the degree of humidity is not adequate.
- **Cloacal Prolapse:** A cloacal prolapse is an externalization of part of the digestive system of your reptile. It is therefore possible to see part of the intestine of your reptile out its cloaca (opening that connects the anus and the reproductive system).

As with all animals, it is recommended that an examination be conducted after the purchase of a new reptile and an annual check is required. The annual exam helps prevent health problems that may occur and thus save the life of your pet. If in doubt, a visit to the veterinarian is required! A reptile, whatever it is, will hide its symptoms so as not to become an easy prey for predators (humans). At the slightest change in behavior, contact your veterinarian.

