



Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*

Description: These large lizards reach an adult length of 6 feet and weight of about 20 pounds. They have bright green coloration with a dorsal spine ridge and prominent dewlap, which is the flap of skin under their chin.

Range: They range from Mexico through Central and South America. They are now an established species in Florida because of pet owners and traders releasing them when they become too large or too aggressive.

Habitat: Iguanas are usually found up in the trees in the rainforest near water.

Life Span: 20 years.

Natural Diet: Plant material and vegetation.

Zoo Diet: Chopped vegetables, fruit, and greens.

Behavior: Iguanas tend to favor trees near or overhanging water where they can quickly jump into if threatened by a predator. Male iguanas have a wide range of social displays when protecting their territory or attracting a mate. These behaviors include head bobbing, push ups and extending their dewlap. Green iguanas can also use their tail as a weapon to ward off predators by whipping it back and forth.

Reproduction: A clutch of 20-30 eggs are laid in loose forest litter.

Conservation Status: Least concern.