



# Amazing Animals Fact sheets

## Lizards

There are over 3000 lizard species distributed throughout the world, and because they are reptiles the majority are found in warmer climates. They range in sizes from 6cm up to 3m long! Lizards have scaly skin that is shed throughout the year, often in irregular patches. Some members of the lizard family are carnivorous (meat only), however there are others that are herbivorous (plants only) or omnivorous (plants and meat).



### Komodo Dragon

The Komodo Dragon is the largest living land lizard. Growing to lengths of over 3 meters and weighing up to 100kg, Komodo Dragons are swift runners and swimmers. They have about 60 serrated teeth which are razor sharp. Their saliva contains poisonous bacteria which will disable prey even if initial bites do not immediately bring the animal down. The bacteria will cause infection and often wounded prey will die within 2-3 days.

#### Habitat

The Komodo Dragon can be found on the Indonesian Islands of Komodo, Rintja, Padar, Flores, Gili, Mota and Owadi Sami. They inhabit lowland areas, and mainly open grasslands, although hatchlings will usually inhabit more forested areas and are primarily arboreal.

#### Diet

Komodo Dragons eat almost any kind of meat. They will scavenge for carrion or stalk animals ranging in size from small rodents to large water buffalo. Baby Komodo Dragons feed on mostly small lizards or insects. They do most of their hunting in the late morning.

#### Breeding

In the wild, Komodo Dragons are normally solitary animals. During mating season the male Komodo Dragon will track down females via a scent. If the female is receptive the male will then press his snout up to the female's body, and flick her with his long, forked tongue. He then scratches her back with his long claws and begins to climb over the top of her in a position for mating. The

female will often use the nest mound of an Orange-footed Scrub Fowl in which to bury her eggs. The babies are born multi-coloured, with speckled and banded skin. Once hatched, young Komodo Dragons are left to fend for themselves living in trees for the first part of their lives. As they grow up their colours become less vivid and most adults are a mottled brown colour with some lighter colours on their face.

## Australia Zoo Komodo Dragon profiles



### Indah

Indah is our beautiful female Komodo Dragon. She is around 185cm long and weighs about 20 kilos, but she'll pack on quite a bit more size over the next few years. She loves her food and really enjoys training sessions with her keepers, especially when she knows there's a tasty reward at the end of it.

Indah also enjoys pats from both the keepers and the guests. Indah is incredibly curious about everything so come check her out near the entrance of Australia Zoo and you just might see her checking you out in return. If you're really keen you can even get up close with Indah in our exciting Komodo encounter.

### Endangered Species!

Very low numbers are left in the wild. Lizards are at risk of extinction within the next ten years.

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