

Black Pine Animal Park

Animal Facts

Breed: BEARDED DRAGON

Names / Sex / Age:

Male Louie 10

Previous Home: A private home.

Native to: Central Australia, semi-arid regions, and woodlands

Size: Adults up to 10" long main body, 2' total length. Males are larger than females.

Life Expectancy: 30 years.

Diet: Insects, small mammals, vegetation. At Black Pine, vegetables, some fruit, meal worms or crickets with supplements.

Status: Good, not endangered or threatened.

Facts:

- With a spiny outer surface, a large flap of skin forms a 'beard' when swollen
- Colors can vary from browns, to grays, to even bright orange, depending on the environment
- Male's beards will turn black during courtship and mating season
- When intimidated, dragons will flatten their bodies and stand erect with their mouth gaping
- Head-bobbing is a sign of aggression
- Submission is displayed by rotating the front legs, like a waving motion.
- Their ability to change color helps them regulate body temperature, is used for concealment, and can indicate emotional state
- A bulky body and the habit of basking allows them to store heat
- They can also survive higher temperatures for several hours, since they can regulate body temperature by evaporation.

Personal History:

Louie was a pet before coming to the park in the spring of 2002. He was apparently housed with too many other dragons when still very young and his toes were cannibalized (his feet should look similar to an iguana's). He seems to enjoy being handled, and prefers to rest on an upper arm or shoulder.