

## INLAND BEARDED DRAGON

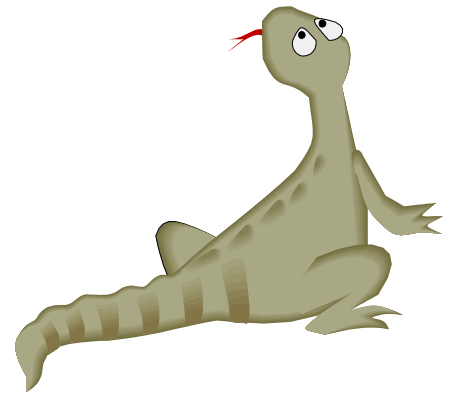
Phylum: Chordata, Class: Reptilia, Order: Squamata, Suborder: Sauria, Family: Agamidae  
*Acanthod Draco vitticeps*

**Status:** Not endangered in the wild. The Inland bearded dragon has also become one of the most widely kept lizards in captivity. Many bearded dragons are bred in captivity.

**Habitat & Range:** scrub areas and dry coastal forests of Australia

**Diet in wild:** Omnivorous- grass, fruit, flowers, other lizards, insects, mice

**Size:** 16-24 inches in length; the tail comprises about half the length of the animal



### Special features:

- The bearded dragon is named for the “beard” of pointy spines that cover the area of the throat and ear openings.
- During mating or territorial displays, males may inflate and darken the skin in the throat area. The “beard” of spines helps to enhance their “menacing” appearance to predators or rivals.
- Bearded dragons have an unusual “arm waving” behavior. A lizard will stand on three legs while waving its arm in a circular motion. This behavior is used in acknowledging other individuals that are at a distance. It is also employed by females during mating season as a display of submission.
- Both wild and captive bearded dragons enjoy basking in the sun
- *Pogona vitticeps* is another commonly used scientific name for the Inland bearded dragon.

### Reproduction:

- Bearded Dragons come into sexual maturity during their second year and remain prolific through their fifth or sixth year.
- A female may lay as many as 10-25 eggs in a nest. The eggs typically hatch in 8-11 weeks.

