



# 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).

Rhinoceros Iguana is in April and the eggs are laid about 40 days after mating. The female will dig a nest cavity in the sand and she will lay as many as 16 eggs at one time. Rhinoceros Iguanas are independent from birth. Females only breed once per year.

## Australia Zoo Rhino Iguana profiles



### Rhino Iguana

The Rhinoceros Iguana gets its name from its outgrowths, like horns, on the end of its nose. These large, heavy bodied lizards are dusky- grey or olive green with dark cross bands that are often barely visible. They have three horny bumps on the snout, which are more pronounced in males. The average adult is 2 feet in length (snout to vent).

### Habitat

The Rhinoceros Iguana is native to the island of Hispaniola (Haiti and The Dominican Republic) and several surrounding West Indian Islands. These iguanas live in areas of open scrub, among rocks and cactus thickets. They can also be found in dry forests to subtropical moist forests. This species is primarily found near coastlines, however, human expansion has forced many populations to retreat further inland. These iguanas are active during the day, spending the nights in rock crevices and dug out burrows.

### Diet

Mature iguanas are primarily herbivores, eating fruit, leaves and flowers. They will occasionally supplement their diets with insects and larger prey items.

### Breeding

The Rhinoceros Iguana becomes sexually mature between the ages of 5-9. The breeding season of the



### Pinko

Pinko was born here at Australia Zoo and spent the first four and a half years of her life in our lizard room, (a temperature-controlled room created especially for young lizards to grow up in). Since then she has moved out into a much larger area with another two Rhinoceros Iguanas; Pinko is by far the most shy. If you do make an effort to spend a bit of time with her this lovely little lizard's affectionate nature really comes through.

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