

Green Inole Home Furnishings

Living arrangements and setup for Green Inoles (AKA baby dragons):

This is a description of how to set up a cage for inoles, but it may apply for other types of reptiles as well. Ask the pet store where you got your pet for how to care for your pet specifically. This handout will give you a good general idea of what may be involved, but the more you know the better job you can do taking care of them. Most medical problems of reptiles are caused by poor diet, housing, or husbandry.

Inoles are native to Florida, so we need to create an environment to match that of Florida. An aquarium 24" x 12" x 14" holds up to four inoles. Don't go much smaller than this even if you have only one or two, though. They need room to exercise. Start by covering the bottom of the aquarium with orchid bark. It will take approximately one five-pound bag. Second, get a couple of dried grapevines, sterilized with the bark peeled off, to place inside. Having the sticks sterilized ensures that you won't bring in any mites or fungi that could harm your new little friends. You may have to ask the pet store to order them specially for you if they don't carry them.

Next, get some air ferns (air bromileias) and wire them to the grape vines. These plants do not need soil or water to grow and will provide fresh oxygen and snacking for the inoles. Also, get about three pathos (potted green plants) and put them down into the bark. The inoles will use these to hide in during the day. Using potted plants makes the aquarium easier to clean because you're able to take out the whole plant neatly. Painting the outside back wall of the aquarium makes for a pretty aquarium/terrarium to look at, but is optional.

You can watch them eat treats by setting up a small wire platform in one top corner of the aquarium. Place baby food (peach or banana flavors are good choices) or mashed fruit in a jar lid on the wire platform, and watch the inoles come up for a treat. The mainstay of the inoles' diet is crickets. Place a fine wire screen over the top of the whole aquarium, not only to keep the inoles in, but also the crickets. Place three or four crickets per inole in the aquarium at one time. Increase or decrease this number depending on how quickly or slowly they are eaten. Inoles are generally fed every day to every other day.

Inoles need water, too. Spray the whole aquarium every day. They will drink water off the leaves of the plants and the sides of the aquarium.

All reptiles need full spectrum and UV light to stay healthy. **REPTISUN Light** is a good brand name for this purpose. This is a fluorescent 5.0 UVB bulb which provides imitation sunlight for the plants to grow. The inoles need it for vitamin D3 absorption. This will cost about \$30, but it is an absolute requirement to avoid bone disease from lack of vitamin D. Place it under the lid at the top of the aquarium. You also need one heat lamp to provide heat. This lamp will cost approximately \$20. These lights need to be on for twelve to fourteen hours during the day and

turned off overnight.

You will need to keep track of the climate in the tank. Put a thermometer right under the light; it should read 85 to ninety degrees Fahrenheit. It will be cooler near the bottom of the cage, providing a temperature gradient. When the inoles get too warm they will move down toward the bottom of the cage to maintain their body temperature.

You will also need to keep a small portable carrier or cage for the inoles= food, the crickets. Pea gravel at the bottom of the cage should be sufficient. You will be buying twenty to thirty crickets a week per inole. You not only need to keep them confined, you also need to keep them alive by feeding them. Place a half a potato in the cage. This will provide the crickets with good food. They will also get their water from the moist potato. Change it about every other day so it doesn=t dry out or rot. Also place a wad of paper towel at the bottom of the cage for protection from too much light and anything they would instinctively hide from.

Lastly, enjoy your new friends= company and showing off your beautiful mini ecosystem!