# Bearded Dragon Vet Visit and Husbandry Checklist

**Companion Reference Sheet for:** Bearded Dragon Vet Near Me: Exam, Fecal, and UVB Checks
Save this PDF to your phone or print a copy for field reference. This sheet does not replace an exam by a veterinarian. If your pet is in distress, call a vet now.

## Key Takeaways

- Use the Association of Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians (ARAV) directory as a starting point, then ask whether the veterinarian regularly treats bearded dragons.
- ARAV membership and ABVP board certification are different credentials. Ask specifically about certification in Reptile and Amphibian Practice.
- A bearded dragon wellness exam can include weight, body condition, mouth and jaw, skin, shedding, limbs, hydration, activity, and a husbandry review.
- Fecal ova and parasite testing can identify parasite stages in a stool sample. A normal looking stool does not rule out parasites.
- Bring UVB bulb and fixture details, installation distance, bulb age, temperature readings, diet and supplement history, and enclosure photos.
- Breathing difficulty, seizures, collapse, major injury, or prolapse need immediate emergency contact. Marked lethargy, worsening weakness, or other illness signs need prompt veterinary advice.

## How to verify a veterinarian treats bearded dragons

| Exam component | What the veterinarian assesses | Why it matters |
|---|---|---|
| Weight and body condition | Current weight, body shape, and changes from prior records | Trends can help identify changes in nutrition, health, or growth. |
| Mouth and jaw | The mouth, jaw alignment, and visible tissues | These findings help the veterinarian assess oral and jaw health. |
| Skin and shedding | Skin condition, retained shed, and visible changes | Skin and shedding findings help guide the physical assessment and husbandry review. |
| Husbandry history | Lighting, temperatures, diet, supplements, and enclosure setup | These details give context to physical findings and help guide care recommendations. |

## Reference Table

| Information to bring | Why it helps | Source |
|---|---|---|
| UVB bulb type and fixture details, including whether it is a T5 HO UVB setup | The veterinarian can interpret the light source and fixture in use. | |
| Distance from the basking area and any mesh or other barrier | Position and barriers help explain the UVB reaching the basking area. | |

| Information to bring | Why it helps | Source |
|---|---|---|
| Bulb age and replacement history | UC Davis recommends replacing the referenced UVB bulb every 3 to 6 months because UVB fades while visible light remains. | UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine |
| Basking and cool side temperature readings | Measurements from both areas help the veterinarian review the enclosure's thermal conditions. | |
| Diet and supplement details | Food and supplement history gives context to body condition and health findings. | |
| Photos of the enclosure | Images help the veterinarian understand layout and lamp placement during a husbandry review. | |

## How to verify a veterinarian treats bearded dragons

A reptile veterinarian or exotic animal veterinarian is the right type of clinician to contact, but a general exotic pet listing does not tell you how often that veterinarian sees bearded dragons. Start with the reptile listings in our U.S. Directory and look for clinics in your city or nearby communities. Call to confirm that the clinician who will examine your dragon regularly treats bearded dragons and can see new patients.

The ARAV member directory is a useful starting point, but membership alone does not show case volume. Ask how often the named veterinarian treats bearded dragons, whether they can perform reptile fecal testing, and which diagnostics are available if the exam points to a need for them.

Ask whether the veterinarian is an ABVP diplomate in Reptile and Amphibian Practice. This is a specialist board certification, distinct from ARAV membership. Few clinics have one, and many experienced reptile vets do not.

Before booking, ask how the clinic handles urgent reptile cases and what its current after hours referral or callback process is. Our emergency care listings can help you look for options, but call the clinic to check its current arrangements.

- ☐ Which veterinarian will examine my bearded dragon?
- ☐ How often does that veterinarian treat bearded dragons?
- ☐ Does the clinic offer fecal ova and parasite testing, bloodwork, or radiographs if indicated?
- ☐ What should I do if my dragon becomes ill after hours?

Exotic Vets is a directory, not a veterinary practice. Use it to find clinics, then contact them directly to confirm services.

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