Thank you for purchasing a lizard or lizards from Colorful Collared Lizard Ranch!

Provided here are simple instructions and details to help make sure your collared lizard/s live a long and healthy life.

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1. **Enclosure**
   - This is one of the most important parts to keeping a happy and healthy lizard. **First**, I suggest on average to keep your collared lizards in a 75-gallon or larger tank or enclosure to allow for ample space and hiding. **Second**, allow for a sunning/basking area where the lizard has access to a heat lamp, typically they enjoy perching themselves up to get as close to the heat source as possible. In addition, make sure that the enclosure has either a heat rock or heating pad under the tank to allow for a heat source at night. **Third**, make sure that there is a constant and clean source of water in the enclosure, placing it in an area away from the sunning/basking area. Pouring in water or having a moving water source can stimulate the lizard to see the water and drink as well. **Fourth**, allow for a shelter area for the lizard to be able to fit inside and use as a sleeping area or hiding place for comfort. **Fifth**, the substrate that is in the enclosure is very important as well. Since the lizards may ingest some of it when eating it is important to have a natural or fine substrate. Try to avoid crushed walnut shells as the main substrate. Acceptable substrates include “WASHED” play sand, bark, dirt, and even calcium or mineral enhanced substrates.

2. **Temperature/Lightning**
   - Temperature is another essential part to keeping a happy and most importantly healthy lizard. **First**, lizards require a heat source to be able to digest their food, without a high enough heat source they cannot digest their food and the food can rot inside them and kill them. **Second**, lizards need UVB from their lights, to replace natural sunlight, to help them metabolize calcium into their blood and convert Vitamin D into active Vitamin D3. Therefore, choosing the correct light bulb is important! When buying a light bulb make sure you know the optimal UVB range and place it to allow for the maximum range to be at your basking site or perching area. Collared Lizards are desert lizards and require 10.0 UVB light
bulbs. Note as the bulb ages the UVB range may diminish as well and may need to be replaced. It is suggested to replace light bulbs every 6-12 months. 

**Third**, never allow the tank to fall below 50 degrees due to a risk of killing your lizard. 

**Fourth**, make sure that the sunning/basking area in the tank gets above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, typically a good ideal temperature is 95 degrees, but can get over 100 degrees avoiding anything higher than 107-110 degrees to avoid retreating and burns. Along with this try to maintain at least a temperature in the low to mid 80’s throughout the rest of the enclosure. 

**Fifth**, try to keep nighttime temperatures in the 70’s not letting the temperature fall below 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Also it is important to have a heat rock or heating pad to supply a heat source to allow for constant digestion even at night. 

**RECOMMENDED LIGHT BULBS INCLUDE:**
- Arcadia: T5 D3+ Reptile Lamp 12% UVB 
- ZooMed: Reptisun 10.0 UVB T5-HO 
- ZooMed: Powersun 160W 
- MegaRay: MegaRay 100W and 160W bulbs 
- Osram GmbH: Ultravitalux 300W 
- Lucky Reptile: Bright Sun UV Desert 35 W 

3. **Food**
Choosing the right food for your lizard(s) is also important to allow for proper growth, development and sustaining a long and healthy life. 

**First**, your lizard if an adult or juvenile has been fed calcium or vitamin dusted 4-5 week old crickets every day of the week. If it is a baby it has been fed half inch or 2-3 week old calcium or vitamin dusted crickets. In addition, they have had access to super worms and dubia roaches. 

**Second**, there is a wide variety of foods that are acceptable for you to feed your lizards including crickets, dubia roaches (as most constant foods), you can also feed your lizards meal worms, wax worms, super worms and even pinky mice or feeder lizards as a snack specially for larger males. In addition, they can also eat collared greens on occasion. 

**Third**, I suggest feeding your lizard daily, or every other day. Allow for ample hiding places for the food to survive during the periods of not adding more food. Or provide a food dish for them to have a constant food source. 

4. **Handling**
Have fun with your collared lizards. Spend time with your wonderful pets and you can train them to be handled and hand feed from your hands. Using four easy steps you can handle your collared lizards at home. Note avoid holding your collared lizards with any potential harm in the room. Including but not limited a cat or dog, or harmful objects. 

**First**, Step one using a scoop technique. Slowly approach the collared lizard with your hand cupped and slowly scoop them into your hand and letting them sit in your hand associating your hand with warmth.
Second, Step two a slow and steady removal from the enclosure. Maintaining the lizard in your hand and carefully removing them without any fast movements to startle the lizard.

Third, Step three using positive reinforcement with petting or a snack. Depending on age a mealworm for a baby or holdback and a superworm for an adult is a great snack reward for handling your collared lizard.

Fourth, Step four a slow and steady placement into the enclosure. Maintaining the lizard in your hand and carefully placing them in the bottom of the enclosure without any fast movements or stating the lizard.