# Bearded Dragon Habitat Setup

This playbook describes the sequential steps required to build and maintain a suitable habitat for a bearded dragon. It covers the selection of substrate, lighting requirements, and appropriate decor to create a safe and stimulating environment for the bearded dragon.

### Step 1: Choose Enclosure

Select an appropriate size enclosure for your bearded dragon, taking into consideration the dragon's full adult size. A 40-gallon breeder tank is often recommended for adults.

### Step 2: Set Substrate

Place a suitable substrate, such as newspaper, ceramic tiles, or reptile carpet on the bottom of the enclosure. Avoid using sand or gravel to prevent impaction risks.

### Step 3: Install Lighting

Install a UVB light source that spans at least two-thirds the length of the enclosure to provide adequate ultraviolet light essential for vitamin D3 synthesis. Ensure that a basking light is also provided to create a temperature gradient.

### Step 4: Create Temperature Gradient

Use thermometers at both ends of the enclosure to monitor and maintain a temperature gradient with a basking spot of about 95-110°F and a cooler end at about 80-90°F.

### Step 5: Add Hideouts

Place multiple hideouts or shelters within the enclosure to provide your bearded dragon with a sense of security and areas to retreat from the heat.

### Step 6: Install Decor

Add branches, rocks, and non-toxic plants to the enclosure to encourage climbing and stimulate natural behaviors. Ensure that all decor is stable and will not collapse on your pet.

### Step 7: Set Humidity Level

Keep the humidity level within the enclosure around 30-40%. Use a hygrometer to monitor humidity levels and make adjustments as necessary.

### Step 8: Regular Maintenance

Perform daily spot cleaning to remove feces and uneaten food. Conduct a thorough cleaning and replace the substrate as needed, typically every 4-6 weeks.

## General Notes

### Bearded Dragon Size

Be ready to upgrade the enclosure as your bearded dragon grows. Juveniles may start in smaller tanks, but they will require more space as they reach adulthood.

### Lighting Schedule

Maintain a consistent light cycle with about 12-14 hours of light each day to simulate a natural environment. Use timers to automate lighting and ensure consistency.

### Feeding Considerations

Provide adequate space in the habitat for a feeding area. Be aware that live food such as insects may hide under substrate, consider feeding in a separate container.