Petware House

Your Neighborhood Pet Store Since 1991

Emerald Swift

Scientific Name: Sceloporus Malachiticus

Brief Description:

The Emerald Swift is a small, docile and attractive lizard, native to the Cloud Forests of Southern Mexico and Central America. Females are an attractive brown in color and the males of the species are a bright green with a stinking below under body. These species do quite well in captivity, as long as their needs are met and maintained.

Average Size: The Emerald Swift is relatively small at seven-to-eight inches as an adult. Males are slightly larger than their female counterparts.

Average Life Span: Most Emerald Swifts will live a life-span of anywhere from five-to-ten years.

Feeding:

- Emerald Swifts are solely insectivores.
- Only feed appropriate sized insects. Use the distance between your pet's eyes as a guide.
- Offer a variety of crickets, dubia roaches, mealworms and wax worms.
- Young Swifts should eat daily, while adults can eat every-other-day.
- Only place amounts of food that will be consumed in ten-to-fifteen minutes.
- Remove any excess food from the cage.
- Adults Emerald Swifts should eat thirty-six-to-forty-eight crickets, each week.
- Provide a quality calcium powdered supplement with D3 on feeder insects at every feeding.
- Provide a quality multi-vitamin powder supplement dusted over feeder insects, each week.

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Cage Setup and Maintenance:

- We suggest a minimum of a twenty-foot long enclosure.
 - o Enough space for thermoregulation.
 - o Larger cage is always recommended.
- Do not house two males in the same cage.
- Ensure tank-size is appropriate for the number of Swifts being kept.
- Terrarium substrate, should be a couple of inches thick for burrowing.
- Cypress mulch, bark, Eco Earth along with areas of moss are acceptable options.
- Provide hide boxes, branches and fake plants.
 - o Arboreal species love to climb and perch up on higher areas.
- Complete a full clean-up at least once a month
- Spot-clean between full clean outs.
- Use only reptile disinfecting cleaner in their cage.

Lighting and Humidity:

- Provide your pet with a UVB bulb with a tropical rating.
- Bulb should be changed every ten-to-twelve months.
- Create a hot area, using a heat bulb, that reaches approximately ninety o F.
 - o The rest of the tank should remain at around seventy of.
- You must always be aware of temperatures, DON'T GUESS.
 - o Use a thermometer at each end of the tank.
- Humidity levels should remain at seventy-to-eight percent.
- Keep substrate damp, but not soggy.
 - o Mist the cage, two or three times a day.
- To help maintain humidity levels, add a waterfall or fogger.
 - Use a hygrometer to measure humidity.



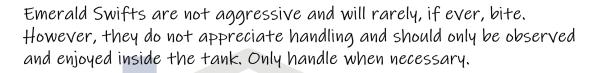
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Handling:





Breeding:

Swifts are often captured straight out of the wild. Captive breeding is not common, but not unheard of. These lizards have live young, so there are never eggs needing incubation. If you have a pregnant swift, make sure she gets extra food with extra supplementation. The babies will need to be separated once they are born and fed tiny insects, such as pinhead crickets and fruit flies, once or twice daily.