



# Amazing Animals Fact sheets

## Lizards

There are over 3000 lizard species distributed throughout the world, and because they are reptiles the majority are found in warmer climates. They range in sizes from 6cm up to 3m long! Lizards have scaly skin that is shed throughout the year, often in irregular patches. Some members of the lizard family are carnivorous (meat only), however there are others that are herbivorous (plants only) or omnivorous (plants and meat).



### Perentie

Perenties are the biggest monitor lizard in Australia, reaching lengths of 2 metres or more. Perenties display a forked tongue, long slender neck, flattened head, strong tail, powerful legs with 5 clawed toes and numerous sharp-curved backward-pointing teeth.

### Habitat

Perenties can be found living in arid regions from Western Queensland to coastal Western Australia, usually around rocky hills and outcrops. They can also be seen finding shelter in burrows which they dig with their powerful front legs and claws. These shelters can be extensive and have several escape exits.

### Diet

Perenties are very efficient predators. They forage widely on turtle eggs, insects, birds, other reptiles (including juvenile Perenties), mammals and carrion. On some of the islands they are often seen scavenging on the beaches for carrion, turtle eggs and almost anything that moves!

### Breeding

The female Perentie will lay around six to twelve eggs in termite mounds where the activity of the insects provides constant warmth. The brightly coloured young will hatch around nine to three months later.

## Australia Zoo Perentie profiles

### Esperence

Esperence is one of our male adult Perenties and was born here at the Zoo. He has been raised around plenty of people, making him a very friendly lizard. Esperence used to be a part of our Wandering Wildlife program but is too big now so he shares an enclosure with one female Perenties. Perenties are carnivorous and Esperence's favourite time is feed time.

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