

FRILLED-NECK LIZARD

HABITAT

The Frilled-neck Lizard lives in woodlands, grasslands, and tropical rainforests in the northern parts of South Australia, the Kimberley in Western Australia, and across the Northern Territory and Queensland.^[1] They prefer a warm, drier climate and can be found on the trunks of trees throughout most of the day.^[2]

DIET

They eat most kinds of insects and other arthropods, as well as small lizards and small mammals.^[3] They wait in trees, watching the ground for their prey, striking quickly when they spot something to eat.^[4]

REPRODUCTION

Around September, before the beginning of the wet season, the males perform an elaborate mating dance to attract a female mate. After mating, the female lays 8 to 14 eggs in one clutch. The eggs are then buried to keep them warm. Eggs hatch after 8 to 12 weeks, in which the young are then forced to take care of themselves.^[5]

THREATS

Cane Toads are a threat as they are highly poisonous, especially to an animal of that size. If they were to eat one, they would most likely die. Fires are also a threat, especially as the regularity and intensity of bushfires increase.^[6]

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in the Northern Territory^[7] and Queensland without a permit.^[8]



"Kragenechse (*Chlamydosaurus kingii*)" by Miklos Schiberna is licenced under the Public Domain.

DESCRIPTION

They can grow anywhere between 45cm to 90cm long, with males growing much larger than females. Their colours vary across shades of brown and grey, with orange and yellow frills. They also have two lower teeth that can cause a painful bite.^[9]

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Chlamydosaurus kingii^[10]

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern^[11]

CLASS

Reptiles^[12]

LIFESPAN

Between 10 and 20 years in captivity^[13]

POPULATION SIZE

Unknown^[14]

FUN FACT

They open their frill and mouth when they feel threatened, so they appear larger and more intimidating in order to try and scare away predators.^[15]

-
- ^[1] ClimateWatch, 'Frill-necked lizard', *ClimateWatch* (27 Apr. 2023), Where To Look, <https://www.climatewatch.org.au/species/reptiles/frill-necked-lizard>, accessed 25 May 2023.
- ^[2] Australian Reptile Park, 'Frieded-Neck Lizard', *Australian Reptile Park* (2023), Habitat, <https://www.reptilepark.com.au/frilled-neck-lizard/>, accessed 22 May 2023.
- ^[3] Australian Reptile Park, 'Frieded-Neck Lizard', Diet.
- ^[4] ClimateWatch, 'Frill-necked lizard', Movement.
- ^[5] ClimateWatch, 'Frill-necked lizard', Breeding.
- ^[6] Northern Territory Government, 'Frieded Neck Lizard', *Northern Territory Government* (1 Sep. 2015), Threats, <https://nt.gov.au/environment/animals/wildlife-in-nt/frilled-neck-lizard>, accessed 30 Mar. 2023.
- ^[7] Northern Territory Government, 'Native animals that need a permit', *Northern Territory Government* (4 Jan. 2019), para. 1, <https://nt.gov.au/environment/animals/wildlife-permits/native-animals-that-need-a-permit>, accessed 25 May 2023.
- ^[8] Department of Environment and Science (DES), 'Plants and animals', *Queensland Government* (30 Nov. 2022), para. 1, <https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/licences-permits/plants-animals>, accessed 25 May 2023.
- ^[9] Australian Reptile Park, 'Frieded-Neck Lizard', Description.
- ^[10] DES, 'Species profile—*Chlamydosaurus kingii* (frieded lizard)', *Queensland Government* (8 Mar. 2022), Scientific name, <https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/species-search/details/?id=574>, accessed 30 Mar. 2023.
- ^[11] DES, 'Species profile—*Chlamydosaurus kingii* (frieded lizard)', *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) status.
- ^[12] DES, 'Species profile—*Chlamydosaurus kingii* (frieded lizard)', Class.
- ^[13] C. Sargent, 'How frieded lizards expand their neck skin to scare predators', *One Earth* (28 Apr. 2022), para. 6, <https://www.oneearth.org/species-of-the-week-frieded-lizard/>, accessed 25 May 2023.
- ^[14] A-Z Animals, 'Frieded Lizard', *A-Z Animals* (29 Mar. 2023), Population, <https://a-z-animals.com/animals/frieded-lizard/>, accessed 22 May 2023.
- ^[15] Australian Reptile Park, 'Frieded-Neck Lizard', Description.