

7 Living with lizards

Australia has a wonderful and diverse range of lizards – we have more than 600 species. They exist in nearly all habitats from alpine regions to the deserts; we have lizards throughout our forests, heathlands, grasslands, urban habitats and waterways.

Lizards have well-developed eyesight; they also have ear openings. Most of them have legs, and some species, especially skinks, geckos and legless lizards can shed their tails in defence. In most cases lizards rarely affect house owners, aside from the shock of seeing a blue tongue hiss or move. However, some lizards, especially monitor lizards, can cause annoyance when they raid chicken pens, forage in the roof of a house and become a persistent visitor. Lizards usually pose very little threat to us although some people worry for their pets and choose to have lizards removed. This chapter looks at the lizard families and the most common offenders around

Yellow Spotted Monitors are common in rural outback properties from north-western Australia to Queensland.

Image: Brad Maryan

