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WILDLIFE SERIES
NO. 3

Monitor lizards

Big, shy and rarely a danger. Give them room and they move on.

1. **Step back**
   3 m, about three big steps.
2. **Keep children and pets away**
   Dogs on a short lead.
3. **Leave it a way out**
   Most leave on their own.
4. **Call or WhatsApp ESC**
   If it's indoors, trapped or not leaving.

Monitor indoors?
Get everyone out. Close inner doors. Open an outside door only if it's away from the lizard. Call ESC.

Never corner, feed or catch a monitor.

Bitten? See a doctor today.

CALL OR WHATSAPP

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GET TO KNOW THEM

Monitors around us

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3 kinds of monitor lizard live here. You'll meet the Malayan water monitor.



Illustration: most adults 1.5 m or less



Illustration: young ones are black and yellow

Why do they come into the estate?

Water
Canals, ponds and pools.

Food
Crabs, fish, dead animals, food waste.

Warmth
Sunny paths and decks.

Shelter
Drains, burrows, dense plants.

Shy, not fierce
Give one a clear way out and it will take it.

How dangerous is it?

Each animal gets a danger level and a safe distance. Photos are illustrations.

Harmless	Give space	Keep clear	Dangerous
Leave it be	3 m	5 m	10 m or more

Give space
Bites if cornered. 3 m.


Water monitor


Young water monitor


Clouded monitor


Green iguana

Harmless
Leave it be.


Changeable lizard

Garden lizards, skinks and geckos are harmless.

Why 3 m?

They bite or lash their tail only when cornered or grabbed. The venom is mild, but bites get infected.

Big lizard you can't name? Give it 3 m.

Call ESC if it can't get out.

STAY CALM

Seen a monitor? What to do

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Pool deck, carpark or lobby

1. **Step back 3 m.** Swimmers get out calmly.
2. **Leave it a clear way out** to water or plants.
3. **Tell the guardhouse.**
4. **Call ESC** if it's indoors, trapped or not leaving.

Garden, drain or canal

Just passing? No need to call. Keep pets back and let it go.

3 m three big steps

Most leave on their own

Never

- Corner it or block its way out
- Poke, hose or throw things at it
- Catch it or grab its tail
- Feed it

Read the signals



ILLUSTRATION: TONGUE OUT MEANS IT'S SMELLING

Tongue flicking. Just smelling the air.

Neck raised, throat puffed. It feels threatened. Back away.

Loud hissing. A warning. Give it room.

Side-on, tail lashing. Stay clear of the tail too.

If it stands its ground

1. **Stop.** Don't move closer.
2. **Back away** past 3 m.
3. **Clear its way out.**

PREVENTION

Keep monitors away

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No food, no visits.

Ground floor and landed

- Bin food waste daily
- Pet food indoors
- Garden doors shut; fit door sweeps
- Small pets in covered pens

Seen one more than once?

Tell management. There's easy food nearby.

Around the estate

- Clean bin centres, doors shut
- Net or cover fish ponds
- Clear BBQ pits after use

Feeding wildlife is an offence.

Please don't feed monitors.

The monitor you'll meet



GIVE SPACE

Malayan water monitor

Varanus salvator

Danger	Bites if cornered
Size	Most under 1.5 m
Where	Canals, ponds, pools

Spot it: dark, small pale spots, nostrils at the snout tip, flat tail.

Note: can reach 3 m.



GIVE SPACE

Young water monitor

Same species · often in trees

Danger	Bites if handled
Size	Under 1 m
Where	Trees and drains near water

Spot it: black with neat rows of bright yellow spots.

Note: the colours fade as it grows.

Water or clouded?


ILLUSTRATION

GIVE SPACE

Clouded monitor

Varanus nebulosus

Danger	Bites if cornered
Size	Up to about 1.5 m
Where	Forest, parks, woods

Spot it: grey-brown, fine yellow speckles, nostrils halfway up the snout, round tail.

Note: climbs high up tree trunks.


ILLUSTRATION: WATER MONITOR

The nose test

Water monitor: nostrils at the tip.

Clouded monitor: nostrils halfway.

Dumeril's monitor is very rare, in swamp forest.

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Look-alikes



GIVE SPACE

Green iguana

Iguana iguana · not native

Danger Bites and whips if handled
Size Often over 1 m
Where Trees near water

Spot it: green, spiky crest, big round cheek scale, banded tail.

Note: eats mostly plants.



HARMLESS

Changeable lizard

Calotes versicolor

Danger Harmless
Size Up to 37 cm, mostly tail
Where Gardens, hedges, fences

Spot it: small and spiky. Breeding males have an orange-red head.

Note: not a chameleon. Leave it be.

Pools, ponds and pets

Monitor in the pool

- ✓ Everyone out; step back 3 m
- ✓ Tell the guardhouse
- ✓ Keep the steps clear so it can climb out
- ✗ Don't hook it out with a pool net

Ponds and pets

- ✓ Net or cover fish ponds
- ✓ Dogs on a short lead
- ✓ Small pets in covered pens



ILLUSTRATION: LET IT LEAVE IN ITS OWN TIME

Good to know

A monitor smells with its forked tongue.

If someone is bitten

Wash it, see a doctor today

DO

- Wash with soap and running water, 15 minutes or more
- Cover with a clean dressing
- See a doctor today: bites can get infected
- Heavy bleeding? Press firmly, call 995

DON'T

- Ignore a small bite or scratch
- Try to catch or kill the lizard

Monitor myths

MYTH **"Monitors chase people."** No. It's heading for water. Step aside.

MYTH **"Their bite has deadly venom."** The venom is mild. Infection is the risk.

MYTH **"One in the drain must go."** Drains are its home. Leave it be.

Save us in your phone

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Step back.
Keep watch.
Call ESC.

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