

The Bad Iguana List

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--- Introduction ---

This is a list of things iguana owners would have their pets write on the blackboard, like Bart Simpson, if they could get them to write. This list was begun July 29, 1997 and is copyrighted by Harold Reynolds (the creator and maintainer), though animal shelters may use it for fundraising purposes. September 3, 2007. Latest update: February 28, 2007.

--- A Note on Iguana Care, from a Contributor ---

Never seen an iguana in the flesh? Goodness. Visit any large pet store and you will probably see hatchlings for sale for about ten bucks. Those little six-inch, bright green hatchlings, so adorable, if taken care of properly will grow into five or even six feet long monsters. The care of igs is very specific and the tragedy is that hatchlings are so cheap; sometimes they are even given away as prizes at fairs like goldfish, but they are rarely taken care of properly. So many die, and it's a constant source of sorrow to us dedicated iguana keepers that thousands of innocent igs are subject to a lingering death due to IGNORANCE or negligence. Reptiles, in general, are prey animals and they hide illness and injury (because in the wild, a sick critter is soon to become lunch to a predator) and die very slowly and agonizingly after a long period if not taken care of properly. Our mission is to increase knowledge of ig care so that only those who are committed to their welfare adopt iguanas, and so that anyone considering adoption reconsider their commitment. I rescued my own Green Guy from a neglectful home, and he'd be dead today if I or another dedicated keeper had not rescued him.

Many folks have not seen an adult iguana in the flesh. They may have seen hatchlings, but adults look very different. When GG goes out in public, many people say, "What the heck is THAT?" They don't even know that he is an iguana. He's a very large, beautiful, impressive specimen, and I could get quite a price for him if I wanted to sell him - which I would never do. Yes, the care of reptiles is considerable. They have very specific requirements. My "free" rescue iguana cost me \$400.00 the first week I had him with vet visits and set-up. I just now spent over two hours making his salad, which I do three times a week. Each salad costs about six bucks, minimum if stuff is on sale, so it's between \$15 and \$20 a week just to feed him. Keeping a reptile is no small matter, it requires a great deal of commitment of time, energy, and moolah. And as for tanks, they are only for hatchlings. I built Green Guy's house myself out of untreated wood (treated 2x4's, like those used for house frames, have fumes like formaldehyde which can kill iguanas) and hardware cloth. It is six feet high, five feet wide and four feet deep and has carpeted ramps and shelves and a plastic tubby with water changed daily in case he wants a bath. I live in a smallish apartment and his house takes up the entire area that would be the dining area. And it's already too small. Not to mention the cost of lights, heating, humidifying, and care from a herp vet (regular dog and cat vets can't care properly for reptiles). This is why dedicated keepers are so opposed to just anyone having an iguana, because the chances are very high that the iguana will not receive the proper care. I and most other keepers would be glad to pay a hefty permit fee, if it meant that there would be fewer people kept igs who aren't prepared to take proper care of them.

-- Amy Navik, February 10, 2005.

Anyone wanting to learn more about the care of Iguanas, please visit the site of the Grand Guru of Iguana care, [Melissa Kaplan](#).

--- Annoying/Embarrassing Habits ---

1. Although I have discovered and mastered the art of hissing, I will refrain from doing so.
2. I will get off my lazy butt and move down a shelf. My humans do not need to place my food right in front of me. Moving off of my shelf would be good for me.
3. I will not attach my mouth to the blue jeans my owner is wearing, forcing her to take off her pants in front of everyone.
4. I will not attack my human one moment and then be an angel with perfect strangers the next.
5. I will not be a crazy lizard at the 7-11 to scare the customers.
6. I will not bob in protest when my human wants me to poop in the morning.
7. I will not change colors without reason, leaving my humans to think I am gravely ill.
8. I will not chew on my human's ears.

9. I will not claw my humans' arms to ribbons, leaving them with what look like the scars of multiple suicide attempts.
10. I will not climb any nearby tree when my human is walking me.
11. I will not climb off of the deck onto the roof causing my humans to form a human ladder to try to rescue me. (I just wanted a better basking spot!)
12. I will not climb the dishwasher, knock down lamps, or try to get into the mice cages.
13. I will not climb the stairs and sit on the kitchen table while my human's mother makes dinner. (When she notices me she likes to try and smash me into the ground, but I scare her too much for her to touch me.)
14. I will not climb through the back of the stove and hide under the burners then wait for several hours to make any noises to let my humans find me.
15. I will not climb up my human's leg when she has no pants on.
16. I will not climb up my human's leg while she is cooking.
17. I will not climb up the stairs just so I can sit on my human's bed.
18. I will not coax my human to hold me so that I can poop on her.
19. I will not drive my human insane.
20. I will not escape the cage while my female human is home and disappear, resulting in three frantic calls to the male human at work. I especially won't climb the back of the fridge to sit on top like some demented gargoyle laughing at her, who's on the phone to him until she happens to look up.
21. I will not follow my (female) human around the house with a crazed look in my eyes. I have an iguana girlfriend, I don't need a human girlfriend.
22. I will not fly across the kitchen every time my human opens the fridge door.
23. I will not frighten my human by charging towards her hand at lightning speed with my mouth open just because she is holding a piece of bread.
24. I will not get stuck behind the printer and then just walk out after my human tries to get me unstuck.
25. I will not go outside by myself without permission! (The other day Roy went to the store and when he came home, there was Hal greeting him at the door! He had somehow gotten out of the house (I think he must have gone through the cat maze, but I can't imagine how) and taken himself for a bask. When Roy told me about it (I was at Business Week) I almost had a heart attack!)
26. I will not go through the cat door. And if it is already locked, I won't keep scratching at it.
27. I will not have a conniption fit if my human turns on the light in the office to work on his computer. If I can sleep in the office in broad daylight, I can sleep with the light on at 7:00 in the evening as well.
28. I will not have sex in public. (I was having a beer at the outside bar at Tillet Garden on St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, when two of the local, wild iguanas (iguani?) came out of the bush, in flagrante delicto. These critters live wild on the island. I have about a dozen that frequent my back yard, sleep under my car, and some times scare the hell out of me when they scurry off from a hiding place. Yeah, these critters infest the whole island. But, they are a protected species, so you do not dare bother them. Yeah, you are stuck at a light, and a horny iguana runs out into the road and takes an attraction to your car. You are stuck there while it does the pushups of love in front of your car. Then, it gets overcome with passion, runs up, and starts humping your tire. Real cute. I saw two iguanas fight over a french fry at a restaurant once. They were both huge, old grandpa iguanas (one was missing its tail; obviously it had been in other fights). They were wrestling and tumbling over each other. They knocked over tables and chairs. The tail-less one finally ran off in defeat. The victor raised his crest and did the pushups of love. It would have been a complete scene if he had then run over and started mating with one of the other iguanas. Another time, I saw a pair of mating iguanas in a park. The female ran off a ledge. When I looked over, she was hanging onto the wall; the male had fallen down four feet to the next ledge below. Talk about coitus interruptus!)
29. I will not hide beneath the quilt and surprise people.
30. I will not hide in dark, cold, remote corners of the house so that the humans must search everywhere for me.
31. I will not hide in my human's sock drawer.
32. I will not hide in the Christmas tree. (My friend Gretchen sent me a picture of her iguana who had gotten loose. She found it on the very top of the Christmas tree, a 5 1/2 foot green angel. The funniest thing I've ever seen.)
33. I will not hurl my gastric juices into my human's face to protest getting picked up. Even though it might be her fault, it's still up to me not to practice projectile vomiting of hydrochloric acid.
34. I will not jump into or onto the fridge when my human opens the door.
35. I will not jump out of my human's hand and scurry into the hole in the wall where the heating pipe comes in, leaving him no choice but to cut a hole in the wall to rescue me.
36. I will not let my eyes bug out simply to freak out my human.
37. I will not lie on top of the clean laundry so I can get a better view of that other ig who lives in the closet door. (Darn Elmer spent half the day in front of the mirror. I went in there and he was there on top of the clean laundry in the basket, so he could sit on something soft while he was bobbing furiously at his reflection.)
38. I will not nap on the highest clothes rail in the closet and refuse to come down.
39. I will not plaster my belly and hands to the front living room window for all to see when my parents are trying to keep me a secret living on a military housing installation.
40. I will not poop in my water dish every time my human changes it for me.
41. I will not pretend I don't know where the many available drinking bowls are around the house so when my human gives me a bath

the moment I touch water I drink as if I haven't seen water in years, making her feel like a criminal.

42. I will not pretend to be drowned in my tub to scare my human. (Iguanas can remain under water for 30 minutes at a time.)
43. I will not pucker my human's fingertip just to watch my treat go flying all over the room.
44. I will not race my human down the hallway when she realizes she left the door open to the other adult male iguana that I like to torture and fight with through his cage.
45. I will not raise my tail at my human every time she moves the slightest bit.
46. I will not save up all of my evilness until my human takes me for a walk and starts to show me off.
47. I will not scare the bikers who are admiring me on my dash board perch during the family vacation.
48. I will not scurry across the living room floor, run into my human's room, get myself apparently stuck in a milk crate and then just crawl out of it.
49. I will not send e-mail while unsupervised. (He really did, several times.)
50. I will not shun my human when she wishes me good morning.
51. I will not show my penii to visitors.
52. I will not sleep in the bathtub when I should be pooping.
53. I will not submarine and play dead in the tub causing my human to yank my temporarily limp body out of the tub before my bath is up.
54. I will not try to climb to the top of the tall 80 gallon aquarium on my own when I want to take a nap.
55. I will quit "playing dead" and scaring my human to death.
56. I will stay where my human puts me. (Fingers crossed behind my back.)
57. I will stop greeting my human by sneezing in her face first thing in the morning. It's not a nice way of saying 'Good Morning'.
58. When my human tells me no, she means no, and I will not be upset if I get put back in my cage when I don't listen.

--- Bodily Functions ---

1. I am a grown iguana and know better than to poop on the kitchen floor just because the new puppy is within 10 feet of my bathroom door.
2. I will lay my eggs in a timely manner, so not to worry my human.
3. I will not crawl under the tarp and poop on my human's clean sheets.
4. I will not do pushups of lust at the Bearded Dragon, cats, dogs, stuffed toys, kitchen cabinets...
5. I will not drag my tail through the potty and make poop paintings on the floor.
6. I will not go potty in the tub and then chop it up like Japanese stir fry before my human can get me out of the tub. I will sit at the clean end and watch it go down like a good boy.
7. I will not go to the bathroom on my human's bed. I did my business the night before, this does not mean I have to do it again first thing in the morning. I know where I should be going and the bed is not it.
8. I will not leave a wet, gooey surprise inside my human's nightshirt.
9. I will not leave poop surprises in front of the front door when I am mad at my human.
10. I will not poop bomb people or the other pets.
11. I will not poop directly on my human just so I can get out of having my claws clipped.
12. I will not poop down the back of my human's computer monitor, completely killing it. (Our Freddy pooped in the monitor after my husband decided it would be a good place to put him for him to stay warm. Real bright dear hubby.)
13. I will not poop in my human's shoes when they are not home.
14. I will not poop in my human's silk shirt.
15. I will not poop in the middle of the living room or bedroom because I am angry at my human. I have been potty trained for several years now and know better than this.
16. I will not poop into the TV.
17. I will not poop on my human when he's brought me to the store to show off.
18. I will not poop on my human's business envelopes and make them all stick shut.
19. I will not poop on my human's head.
20. I will not poop on my human's new shirt.
21. I will not poop on my human's side of the bed.
22. I will not poop on the card my human got for my other human just out of spite.
23. I will not poop on the computer monitor after my human has turned it into a basking spot for me.
24. I will not poop on the next customer's newspaper when my human has brought me to the store to show off.
25. I will not poop right behind the closed bedroom door.
26. I will not produce a vast quantity of eggs (37 and counting) after my vet and my human valiantly fought to get my calcium level back to normal ranges. I will also acknowledge that I am an old lady at 13 and do not need to produce eggs when my body needs the calcium more than the eggs do, especially since the eggs are not fertilized and will never create babies.
27. I will not save pooping in the tub until I can get to my water dish.
28. I will not sneeze the salt out of my nose when my human is holding me inches from her face.
29. I will not squeeze my too ample body (4ft 6in) through the window of my human's daughters dolls house, just so I can poop on the newly laid carpet, whilst at the same time giving the impression of a lizard/house hotdog.

30. I will poop faster when my human is in a hurry to leave.
31. I will poop in my potty, not next to it.
32. I will take a bath and I'll enjoy it for once.
33. I will try not to squeeze my 5' long body into a small bird cage to poop instead of using the BIG litter box.
34. My human is not my girlfriend. She is not interested in my sexual overtures.
35. Sneezing in my human's face is not an appropriate greeting.
36. The dogs' beds are not my toilet.
37. There are living turtles in the tank; my humans did not set up a personal latrine for me. (Bob thought our new turtle tank was his bathroom.)

--- Destroying ---

1. I will not chew my human's new blanket that she got from Mexico, just because it has bright pretty colors and I think it needs a good mauling.
2. I will not climb into the china cabinet on top of the breakables to attack the lizard in the mirror.
3. I will not climb into the lining of my human's antique Swiss Army coat, forcing my human to rip out the lining and cut out buttons to get me out. (I was rewarded with grunts.)
4. I will not climb onto shelves I have previously ignored just so I can knock fragile glass antiques onto the ground.
5. I will not dig up the plants in the house and try to eat them.
6. I will not eat all of the flowers off the squash plant.
7. I will not eat my human's underwear.
8. I will not eat plants my human is keeping for friends.
9. I will not go into the closet and climb all of my human's most fragile, snaggable, expensive clothing, while ignoring all the sturdy items that could withstand my weight and claws.
10. I will not jump off my human and destroy his model the starship Enterprise. "Captain, there's an iguana on the view screen!" "Shields on full power!"
11. I will not jump off the bathroom door, land on my human's four year old philodendron that is strung all over the bathroom and destroy it.
12. I will not knock over and break my \$10 heating light.
13. I will not play Godzilla: The Home Game with my human's model trains.
14. I will not sleep on my human's aloe vera starts.
15. I will not tear holes in the screen door no matter how badly I want to go outside.
16. I will not try to climb the fake plants in the expensive vase on top of the six-foot bookshelf and destroy said vase with a very loud and worrisome thump.
17. I will not try to climb the table lamp.
18. Just because we moved from cold Nebraska to warm California doesn't mean I may destroy the human's winter heavy coats. Down stuffing is not meant to fly about.

--- Escaping ---

1. I should not escape from my cage.
2. I will not attempt to scratch a hole in the window screen trying to escape, causing a crowd of dozens to stand on the outside stair landings watching me and laughing and pointing.
3. I will not attempt to squeeze out the tiny gap in the screen door and escape out on to the balcony where I could fall off, causing my human to scream and have to jump out of bed to save me.
4. I will not escape and go visit the lady next door who hates me.
5. I will not escape from a window in the house, climb to the top of the 12 ft. holly bushes outside and fall asleep there.
6. I will not escape from my cage and hide in the shower so I can frighten any small children who happen along.
7. I will not escape from my cage and perch motionless on my human's bed post to see how long it takes her to notice me.
8. I will not escape from my cage when I'm staying at the boyfriend's house just to go upstairs and poop in his roommate's bed.
9. I will not escape my house, run across the street, freak out the neighborhood, making an audience of over 10 when my parents are trying to keep me a secret living on a military housing installation.
10. I will not escape through the hole in the screen door to go use the balcony as my private jungle gym. (We live in an apartment and knocking on the downstairs' neighbors' door to retrieve Red from their balcony was not my idea of how to meet the new neighbors.)
11. I will not jump from my human's shoulder and climb up a 50 foot oak tree, causing my human much distress and having to hire a tree climber to go up and get me.
12. When I escape, I will not force my human to run down the street after me causing him to break his thumb in an attempted tackle.

--- Food / Water ---

1. I am not going to starve. I get fed three times a day [*Error corrected: was 3 times a week*]. Furthermore, there is plenty of room in our case, so I don't have to climb over both of my companions so that I can place my body strategically over all three food dishes

and refuse to let the other two eat until I have finished. If that human wouldn't put a fourth salad at the other end, those other lizards would probably fight back!

2. I can eat and drink out of my own bowls all by myself. I do not need to use mind control to get my human to come over and hand-feed me tidbits.
3. I will eat my alfalfa, just because it's so good for me.
4. I will not attack (and eat) Grandma's winter cactus.
5. I will not attempt to eat every tissue I find lying around. Especially not the one my human is currently using. I'm cute, and I'll act that way too.
6. I will not attempt to eat my human's son's socks, simply because they happen to be fluorescent yellow and therefore must be fruit, and even though I tasted them thoroughly first.
7. I will not attempt to eat my human's yellow socks, especially while she is wearing them.
8. I will not attempt to steal my humans' dinner, especially when it is something that is not good for igs to eat.
9. I will not change my taste in food by the minute.
10. I will not drink my human's beer, scotch, rum or anything else in his glass.
11. I will not eat hair.
12. I will not eat half a cube of butter and leave an iguana nose-shaped bite marks as evidence.
13. I will not eat paper towels.
14. I will not eat salsa.
15. I will not eat the cats' food when I am in the kitchen.
16. I will not eat the remainder of the pumpkin pie my human left out on the table after Thanksgiving. Pumpkin pie is not good for me (but it is very yummy)!
17. I will not eat yellow socks. They are attached to my human's feet. She doesn't appreciate the nibbles
18. I will not feed on fingers while finger feeding.
19. I will not fling bits of the stolen items around wildly as the humans attempt to retrieve it.
20. I will not hang by my back legs from my new branch to eat.
21. I will not help myself to the living salad bar.
22. I will not pick out only the stuff I like in my food dish.
23. I will not shun food and water for days on end.
24. I will not shun my balanced iguana food in favor of being hand-fed whole wheat bread.
25. I will not sneak out during the day when no one is home to empty the cat food bowls. (Elmer did this and we busted him because he left a seminal plug).
26. I will not snub the elaborate healthy salad my human makes for me so that she worries herself sick.
27. I will not so much as THINK about touching my human's pizza or I will draw back a stump.
28. I will not steal my humans' dinners while they are not looking.
29. I will not steal the dog's food. He is old and he needs his special diet. I am not supposed to eat meat anyway and human makes me a delicious salad every day which I should eat.
30. I will not suck in my gut every time someone walks by so I can get extra greens.
31. I will not swallow an entire pair of my human's silk panties behind her back. (It took 1 whole month and hundreds of dollars in vet bills to figure out why he wasn't eating, and finally, it all came out naturally at the vet's office. Bad Trendy!)
32. I will not tear down my human's bike helmet and eat the lining.
33. I will not try to eat ashes from the fireplace.
34. I will not try to eat everything that is outside including dirt, concrete, 2x4's, and the tires on the BBQ grill.
35. I will not try to eat the brakes on my human's bicycle.
36. I will not try to eat the lace curtains.
37. I will stop eating the rugs in the house, especially the bathroom rugs. I get enough fibre in my diet that rugs will not help me.
38. I will stop intimidating the male dog when he is fed his canned food (because he has trouble keeping weight on, and of course I don't) so I can eat it.
39. The carpet is not iguana food; neither is my human's hair.

--- Good Iguana! ---

1. Humans love rubs too and I give the best.
2. I will continue to be a more effective self-defense weapon for my human than a gun. We don't tell strangers that I am friendly, and that's the beauty of the scheme!
3. I will continue to be as calm as the Dead Sea when I am mobbed by little kids at the park.
4. I will continue to be better about getting manicures than my human is.
5. I will continue to be kind and let the cockatiel take a bath in my food while I am eating it and not bother her one bit, even when she decides to climb on me and remove dead skin from my spikes.
6. I will continue to be still and signal when I want my human to rub my buggin' eyeballs.
7. I will continue to cause my iguana-loving vet's jaw to drop in amazement every time he sees me because I am so handsome, well-behaved and just plain HUGE.

8. I will continue to eat the grapes that are hand fed to me as daintily as you can possibly imagine.
9. I will continue to give the best kisses an iguana can give!
10. I will continue to grow healthy, beautiful, and BIG!
11. I will continue to let myself be videotaped with every visitor who comes by with the utmost patience, even when they don't know how to hold me.
12. I will continue to let the cockatiel ride me when she feels like it (see [photo](#) for proof).
13. I will continue to let my humans and guests scratch me right behind the ear where I like it.
14. I will continue to let my humans and their guests marvel at my manly pose, and will accept their tokens of appreciation kindly.
15. I will continue to shake my head from side to side when I mean no, and to bob my head up and down when I am happy.
16. I will revel in having almost every color in the rainbow somewhere among my beautiful scales.
17. I will stay under the blanket my human provides for me to help keep me warm at night.

--- Hampering ---

1. I will not attack the claw clippers when it is time for my manicure.
2. I will not attempt to eat the measuring tape while my human is trying to measure me.
3. I will not chase the neighborhood cats while I am being walked. Especially up trees where my long suffering human has to climb up and get me down.
4. I will not climb up the back of the computer and rip out all the cables.
5. I will not delete my human's unread e-mail.
6. I will not fall asleep while my human is photographing me.
7. I will not go bonkers while my human is trying to photograph me.
8. I will not hang onto my human's shirt or pillow when it is time for me to go back inside my cage.
9. I will not jump onto my human's scanner when she is scanning new pictures.
10. I will not leap from my windowsill to the shelf over my human's head when he is online.
11. I will not perform "the alligator death roll" every time my human tries to put my leash on me.
12. I will not rearrange the wires behind the entertainment center.
13. I will not refuse to come down off my perch when my human is trying to help me get a better sunning spot.
14. I will not run to the back of my cage and act like I am frightened of my humans when it is petting time.
15. I will not sit on the keyboard. The humans cannot type through me.
16. I will not sit on the monitor with my tail hanging down over the screen.
17. I will not sit on the remote and then puff up and glare at my my human when she doesn't like what I'm watching and changes the channel.
18. I will not sneeze salt onto my humans' glasses as they sit at the computer.
19. I will not try to do any more "iguana accounting" by playing with my human's calculator as she attempts to do her tax return. The IRS won't believe me.
20. I will not try to go behind the TV when my family puts me on the floor.
21. I will not use my seated humans as convenient climbing ladders to get to the computer. I will especially not do this when they are wearing shorts.
22. I will sit still while my nails are being clipped.
23. Jumping off the computer monitor while my human is logging in to the internet and deleting the password AND causing the computer to disconnect is a very good way of getting all of my wandering privileges revoked!

--- Human-Related ---

1. I am not a driving instructor. When my human takes me driving on the headrest of his seat in the truck (the high point of any day), I will not direct his gaze firmly ahead by clamping the sides of his head with my arms. This prevents him from using the mirrors and probably explains why he wears caps when driving. (The lady at the Arby's drive-through window gets points for a small handful of lettuce offered, however nutritionally useless...)
2. I do not have to hold my human's ears to keep his head positioned just right so I can watch television. He can do this himself.
3. I will maintain my vow of never, ever tail-whipping a human, provided no human gives me cause to whip them.
4. I will not be insanely jealous of anyone who shows affection to my human.
5. I will not bite my human (and leave her with three lovely half-inch scars on her wrist) just because I'm grumpy.
6. I will not bite my human on the face when we get in the car to go visit the vet. It is my fault that we have to go there, not hers. I should not keep attacking her even though she wore a red jacket. (Thankfully, I had just gotten into the car and we were not driving yet.)
7. I will not bite my human on the nose every time she kisses me on my cute little face. My teeth are 5/8 of an inch long, and she doesn't need facial surgery anymore than I need another penis.
8. I will not bite my human's room-mate's earlobe again.
9. I will not climb my human's leg while he is shaving, my human's head using her ears, or up my human's leg in the shower.
10. I will not climb the nice friendly female human stranger's low cut shirt, thus exposing her chest for the whole fair to see.
11. I will not climb up the inside of my human's favorite sweatshirt while she is wearing it and refuse to come out.

12. I will not confuse my human in the morning by forcing him to wake up to my snout on the pillow next to him.
13. I will not confuse my human's tongue for a strawberry.
14. I will not crawl up on my human's chest while she is sleeping, so that when she awakens she finds my face right in hers and has a heart attack.
15. I will not do my regular jogs up and over the bed if my humans are in it trying to make love.
16. I will not eat my human's hair, even though it smells like strawberries.
17. I will not even *think* of glomming my human's fingers after he has prepared Thai-style food. (He schlorpped the tip of my finger after I cooked this evening (spicy food), and discovered that, Yes, Virginia, Thai food is spicy and it does burn the tongue of those who are not used to it. He spent the next 1.5 minutes shudder bobbing at me, and at nothing in particular, while he got the taste out of his mouth, snout rubbing along the curtain rod.)
18. I will not frighten my human's roommate.
19. I will not frighten the maintenance guys who don't realize that I am sleeping on top of the bedroom door. (They will never forget that one!)
20. I will not get hold of my human's finger, and not let go no matter what until my human has to run and get a Q-tip to poke my tongue to make me release him.
21. I will not give my human the Evil Eye when: I am sitting on the stove and she wants to cook her dinner; when I am sitting on the counter and she wants to wash the dishes; when she is in the kitchen and I want to come in.
22. I will not give my human the Evil Eye. Period.
23. I will not give my human the evil-eye every waking moment, just because I'm being snotty about the new puppy.
24. I will not hiss at the apartment manager.
25. I will not instantly dislike new members of the family before I give myself a chance to get to know them.
26. I will not leap off my human's shoulder, then pretend to be afraid of her.
27. I will not lick my human's friends hair so everyone else can laugh at him while he has no clue what I'm doing.
28. I will not lunge at my human's face when I see my reflection in her glasses, causing her to have seven stitches in her eyelid. (This led to a much needed and helpful neutering.)
29. I will not run my claws through my human's hair every time she pins it up.
30. I will not play tug-of-war with my human's shirt.
31. I will not sit on my human's chest while she is asleep so I can scare the bejeezes out of her when she opens her eyes and sees me there.
32. I will not splash in the tub with my tail causing my human to get a face full of iguana bath water.
33. I will not stick my nose in my human's ear and sneeze.
34. I will not suddenly jump on my human while she is putting on makeup to go out. She does not like being startled and jabbing the mascara wand into her eye.
35. I will not tail-whip my human's bare legs when she is being nice to me.
36. I will not try to help when my parents are having sex by sitting on them.
37. I will not try to scare the people in the car behind us from the back window any more by extending my dewlap, opening my mouth real wide, bobbing my head at them or anything else I think will get me attention --well maybe I will my humans laugh when I do it.
38. I will not use my human's ears as ladders to get onto her head.
39. I will not use my human's eye socket as a step.
40. I will not use my human's hair for a bed when she is napping and wake her up by touching her face with my tongue, nor will I wake up sleeping house guests in the same way.
41. I will not wait until my human falls asleep and then walk off. (My husband (Jack) will lie on the couch and hold Speedracer to his chest, petting her on top of her head to the end of her tail. She'll sit there very still, with eyes closed, and "zone out". Eventually my husband will stop petting her, but will still be holding her. She stays as still as can be, never moves. Then Jack will doze off. As soon as he does, Speedracer walks off his chest. It's like she's just waiting for him to doze so she can take off. Then Jack will wake up a couple of minutes later and wonder where the heck Speed is and go looking for her.
42. I will stop stalking my human's boyfriend. He is not going to take her away from me. He loves her too.
43. I will wake my human up with kisses in the morning.
44. Jumping onto my caretaker's head when she is leaning into my cage to get my water dish is NOT smart. I have long, sharp claws, and she was not dressed in such as fashion as to be able to safely remove me.
45. My claws have a fairly severe itch/tickle factor, which is why I will not run across people's bare feet.
46. My human is perfectly able to sleep by herself. It is not necessary for me to accompany her to bed. Especially since she knows I will only use her butt for a heating pad.
47. My human will not drop me when she holds me. I do not need to pierce her arm with my razor-like claws to keep from falling out of the "tree."
48. My human's eye sockets are not footholds for climbing on top of her head.
49. My human's room-mate is not my dinner. (Tas hates my roommate John. He chases him round the house and tries to bite and whip him.)
50. The man who lives with my human is not a rival - I will think of him as just another hand to feed me. He loves me, too.

51. When I sit on my human's shoulder I will not stick my claws in her ears.
52. When my human is putting food in my cage in the morning while I'm still asleep, I will not take years off her life by waking with a start and running frantically around the cage.

--- Mess-Making ---

1. I am too big to climb the curtains.
2. I do not have to knock over everything on the mantle.
3. I should not knock everything off of the windowsill just so I can squeeze my body 4 inches further from the new puppy when we are both trying to nap on the couch.
4. I will not change potty places each week.
5. I will not climb on the pile of folded laundry and cause it to topple pell-mell to the floor.
6. I will not climb the book shelves and pull down the loose books.
7. I will not climb the curtains, poop, and laugh in glee as it slowly slides down to the carpet.
8. I will not climb up the CD rack and empty it onto the floor.
9. I will not dig up all of my litter and shove it in my water dish.
10. I will not dump my food dish all over the bottom of my house if I don't like what is put into it. I will not walk directly through it and dragging the sticky mess behind me.
11. I will not eat my human's chocolate pie and then wipe my face on his naked chest while he is laughing at me. (I was lying in bed with Hoover on my stomach for some quality time. Robin (ex-wife) brought me a Hostess pie. I took a couple of bites. Hoover wanted a bite. She took a little test taste, then shoved her face as far into as she could. She liked the pie, but one big bite was enough. I was laughing my head off, and Hoover's head was bobbing up and down. I laughed harder. Then she wiped her face on my bare chest causing me to laugh even harder, and also causing me to take a shower.)
12. I will not erase my human's business dry erase board with my body.
13. I will not get tired of my bath and climb out onto the toilet seat, dragging wet water into the cat litter box which sits on the floor beside the toilet in a corner (box contains clumping litter and was fortunately cleaned out) and so leave a trail of large clumpy patches of wet litter from here to my condo.
14. I will not hog the beg. I will not hog the bed. I will not hog the bed.
15. I will not knock all of my human's spices off of the counter, especially not all the open ones.
16. I will not knock my food and water dishes to the floor to express my displeasure over my diet.
17. I will not knock over my elaborate 12 oz. water dish and soak my litter, causing my human's room to smell and mold.
18. I will not leap into my poop and swim in it and smear all over my walls when wanting to get the heck out of here for some freedom.
19. I will not leave pee-pools in the middle of the floor where my (long suffering) human can step in them with her bare feet. Good lizards use the newspaper: that's what it's there for. (White urates don't show up very well on white floors. I think she knows this. I had to hop to the bathroom twice yesterday thanks to her. Nothing like the feeling of that viscous squish between the toes. Of course she always times it for maximum inconvenience to me.)
20. I will not make poop paintings on the bedroom windows when my human locks me in there after I have given her the Evil Eye.
21. I will not smear poop all over my human's arm while he is taking me to the shower to clean me up.
22. I will not smear poop on my human's toothbrush when she is trying to clean me up.
23. I will not sneak into the bedroom and poop on the "snooze" button of the alarm clock.
24. I will not tail-paint my human's walls with my poo.
25. I will not take a piece of food, eat half of it, and leave the rest of the pieces all over the tank for my human to clean up.
26. I will not throw water at my human.
27. I will not topple my food dish onto my human's computer.
28. I will not unravel all the toilet paper.
29. I will not wait to let out a huge poop down the front of my human's shirt until she is in the middle of heavy traffic while she is driving me to the vet for a check-up.
30. I will not wipe my dirty face on the glass doors of my cage, especially after my human just finished cleaning them.
31. I will stop plugging the hole in my water feeder.
32. If my human does not respond immediately to my scratching to be let out, I will be patient and will not pass the time making poop paintings on the bottom of my cage.
33. Just because the new iguana poop bombs from every branch in the habitat doesn't mean I should. I am paper trained and should set an example.

--- Miscellaneous ---

1. I am not a baby ig anymore. I am too big to sit on my human's head.
2. I do not own the TV.
3. I will stop growing when my back leg gets thicker than my human's wrist.

--- Misuse/Misappropriation of Items ---

1. I will not climb into the toilet anymore.
2. I will not treat my human's dining room table and place mat as my personal jungle gym/ slide/ runway.
3. I will not use my food bowl as a pillow.
4. Humans are not climbing trees.
5. The bathtub faucet is not a trapeze.
6. The computer is not my basking spot.
7. The couch does not belong to me.
8. The remote control does not belong to me.

--- Night-time ---

1. I will go to sleep in my appointed warm sleeping area. When I neglect to do so, I will not scratch the humans as they remove me from the cold spot I have chosen. They are doing this for my own good and I should not be ungrateful.
2. I will not fling my food bowl off of my shelf when my light goes out. I've slept with and on my bowl for years, I should not get picky now.
3. I will not make as much noise as possible when attempting to leave my cage at 3 a.m. and waking up my human.
4. I will sleep in my cage. If my human lets me sleep with her, I will at least have the decency to not hog the bed.

--- Noise ---

1. I will not make as much noise as possible while my human is home sick.
2. I will not hiss, bob, and flare my dewlap at my human to get my way.
3. I will not make as much noise as I possibly can and hiss and blow snot onto the whole room from my high perch when my humans have their friends over whom I don't like and then act like I'm asleep when someone tries to pick me up to take me to my room. I also won't dive onto the ones I do like as soon as I see them and scaring them half to death.
4. I will not thump my tail wildly in the bathtub to make my human come running.
5. If I have to knock fragile things onto the ground, I will at least wait until my humans are awake and properly caffeinated to do so. The humans do not like being awakened by the sound of breaking glass.

--- Not All There ---

1. Attacking the Iguana In The Mirror only makes my nose sore.
2. I am a 6-foot iguana. There is not room for me on top of the computer monitor when my human is reading her e-mail.
3. I cannot fly. Even from the couch, which does make a pretty good launching pad.
4. I have a BIG cage now. I will not just sit on the sunning shelf all day.
5. I will get smart enough to put my entire body, not just my head, on the hot rock my human has THOUGHTFULLY put in the cold porcelain bathtub that I INSIST on sleeping in.
6. I will learn that I cannot climb smooth objects, like lamps and walls!
7. I will never again do a back flip off my human's shoulder.
8. I will never again jump from the second floor porch and straight into the mouth of a cat, to the complete and total horror of my human friends! (The cat ran off with him and he was never seen again. It happened to us while babysitting a friend's iguana. He was still tiny and somehow always found his way out of the cage. During a party, he got out and jumped to his death before anyone could stop him.)
9. I will not attack, head-bob at, or display at the mirror. I can coexist peacefully with my reflection.
10. I will not attack inanimate objects that belong to my grandpa and grandma.
11. I will not attack plastic lizards.
12. I will not attack the TV when Jurassic Park is on.
13. I will not attempt to climb smooth, featureless plaster walls.
14. I will not bite my food bowl when it is being put in my enclosure. It will not hurt me, so I don't need to attack it.
15. I will not bite the yellow printing on my human's shirt.
16. I will not bob my head at my shadow.
17. I will not catapult myself repeatedly into the empty bathtub for no apparent reason.
18. I will not climb into the ceramic log and get stuck.
19. I will not climb the living room blinds and become entangled in the strings with my claws and hang helplessly until my human comes along to rescue me.
20. I will not climb up the sleeve of one of my human's flannel shirts while it is hanging in the closet and get both stuck and lost.
21. I will not crawl into the bathroom and snuggle with the spare toilet paper rolls.
22. I will not dig at the corners of my tank for hours on end. It will not get me to China and it only splits my nails.
23. I will not do gravity tests with my body from the recliner, several times in one day.
24. I will not escape my enclosure and let myself get caught by a dog. This makes my humans scream and gets the dogs in trouble (Houdini has been found several times by humans after he escaped, and twice by one of the pit bulls--and he's still in one piece.)

25. I will not fish through the tiny gap on the back of the aquarium with my toe then act surprised and frantic and whip all around when one of the Oscars tastes the tip of my toenail.
26. I will not get into the (hot!) hot tub when the humans aren't looking and pass out, throwing them into a panic until one puts me in a sink of cool water and revives me. I will not then bite the other human for the nice bath he gave me.
27. I will not go behind the printer, stick my head up and look confused and sad.
28. I will not head-bob at nothing.
29. I will not hide under my humans' parents' saddle when it is freezing cold there and turn a light shade of purple to scare my human beyond his current shock! (My iguana Adrios got loose and just disappeared! I figured she would be in a warm place, but she was in the coldest place in my house. I found her after doing some cleaning).
30. I will not jump from an open window on the second floor then sit in the bush where I landed as if nothing happened.
31. I will not jump to the floor from 6 feet up in the air.
32. I will not jump out of my human's convertible while she is cruising down the highway at 55 mph, there is a good reason why my leash is attached to her gearshift it is not so I can hang and flop against her door as she cruises down the road and scare her so badly she almost wrecks her car.
33. I will not melt. Getting spritzed with water is a good thing. After all, the others like it.
34. I will not pretend I can fly and dive from 10 feet up in a tree and then wrap myself around the inside of a car tire so that my humans can't even be sure I am still alive and they have to get the jack and the tire tool and slowly, carefully remove the tire so as not to squish me.
35. I will not protect inanimate objects in my cage from my humans (Tas has a skull-shaped sandstone that he thinks is his mate and gets offended when it is moved for cleaning purposes).
36. I will not repeatedly get stuck behind my human's dresser. The barriers my human puts there are NOT meant to be knocked down. And as my human tries to save me from death-by-squishment, I will not bite in protest.
37. I will not repeatedly launch myself at the TV from my perch, just because the action there is getting too intense.
38. I will not run full-speed into the wall several times in a row.
39. I will not sit directly on top of the heating lamp when I am let out to wander.
40. I will not struggle wildly when my human is trying to take me out of my cage and then decide that I actually do want to come out and refuse to go back in.
41. I will not try to climb the walls. (My humans are already climbing them...)
42. I will not try to eat the plastic lizards.
43. I will not try to perform an aerial dive from the 12th story (and make my human catch me by the tail to pull me to safety.)
44. I will try not to look surprised every single morning when I eat a mouthful of clumping litter and discover that it won't come off my tongue.
45. I will not try run into oncoming traffic when my human takes me outside.
46. I will try really, really hard to learn that you can crawl OUT of a pillow case just as easily as you can crawl IN one.
47. My human's brightly colored fingernails are NOT yummy berries for me to eat.
48. My claws cannot penetrate the plastic on the windows, so I should just stop trying.
49. My human goes through the same routine with me every day. I will stop acting like it's all a surprise!
50. The bathtub is not a river. I cannot escape by ducking my head under and swimming away as fast as my little body will go. And if I try this maneuver, I will not shame my parents by looking shocked that they are still there. They don't want to know they raised a moron.
51. The Iguana In The Mirror is not real. I do not need to spend hours upon hours displaying threatening postures to drive him away.
52. There is a cool section in my cage. If I get really, really hot, I will go there. That's what smart igu do.

--- Other Critters ---

1. Even though I am much smaller than the Malamute, he is afraid of me and I must not abuse this power.
2. Ferrets are not baseballs, and my tail is not a bat.
3. Harley, the Amazon parrot, does NOT like to share his living room climbing perch with me, nor does he appreciate me leaping onto his play tray.
4. I am too big to climb on the fish tank. The goldfish do not like it when I try to do this anyway and fall in.
5. I do not have to arch my back and step sideways like a cat to get my point across to the real cats. My open mouth gets the meaning across just fine.
6. I have my OWN basking spot that my human spent lots of time and money on. Therefore I do not need to chase the dog out of her warm bed by leaping on her while she is asleep and making her think I am Godzilla by puffing up and hissing.
7. I shouldn't try to lie on top of the other iguana when we are taking a bath or are in the cage.
8. I will not chase cats.
9. I will not chase the kitten and bite at his butt when he runs away.
10. I will not dive bomb the dog.
11. I will not fight with the cat over the best sunning spot in the house. She is, after all, much older than me. (Jenny is 17, Sunny the Ig is only 4 or 5.)
12. I will not freak out the neighbor's rottie by licking his nose, even if he is a sissy.

13. I will not harass the dogs from my perch way up high, because the big one will want to eat me.
14. I will not hiss at cats sitting outside my window.
15. I will not leap off my human's shoulder, land on the cat, and play rodeo rider by clinging to the cat's back while the cat runs frantically around the house. (Our iguana Gizzard did this to our cat Tiamat, who is still afraid of the iguana. I still laugh every time I remember that "rodeo ride".)
16. I will not leave footprints on the cat, even when she won't move.
17. I will not nip the cats to make them get out of my way.
18. I will not scare the dogs away from their food bowls just so I can have a treat.
19. I will not sit on the baby iguana's cage and poop so when my Mom finally sees it, it looks like he has a white plaster scarf on.
20. I will not stalk the 75 lb. female Lab I live with so I can unsuspectingly pounce on her and mount her and freak her out in the middle of her afternoon nap.
21. I will not step on and roll over the cats even if they are in my way in the hallway.
22. I will not tell the new iguana that it is OK to climb the curtains.
23. I will not torture the ants when I am outside in the yard, by knocking down their hills and watching them run for fun.
24. I will not try to break down the door to the room where I know the female iguana lives. She is not interested in me at all.
25. I will not try to climb the cat. She looks fuzzy and warm, but does not appreciate me at all.
26. I will not whip the cat with my tail.
27. I will quit throwing my food dish at the dog.
28. I will stop pretending that the new puppy is a baseball, my tail is a bat, and the living room is a baseball field. I'm never going to get the chance to try it for real anyway.
29. My human's Chihuahua is NOT a tasty little snack!
30. Noelle (the cat) may love me, but she is not my girlfriend and does not appreciate it when I mount her. (Elmer loves Noelle)
31. The cockatiels do not like it when I climb on their nest box.
32. The house cat is not my dinner tonight or any night.
33. There are four ledges to the cat scratch post and only two cats and one iguana (myself). There is room for everybody and I can learn to share.
34. When my human lets me out for my daily romp, I will not hunt down and terrorize the new baby chinchillas in our family.

--- Vets, Illness and Medicine ---

1. I will breathe deeply when the expensive veterinarian is trying to gas me to sleep for surgery after I broke my leg.
2. I will not attempt to jump out of my human's arms when we go to the vet, causing the dogs to bark and lunge at me and giving my human a heart attack.
3. I will not chase my vet around the surgery room during my hospital stay, since he made me well. (A 5 ft and 8.8 lbs iguana.)
4. I will not do the worlds slowest alligator roll while getting gassed for surgery.
5. I will not get loose at the vet's office, just after my humans have told him how nice I am, and run around like a mad lizard scaring everyone to death.
6. I will not pull the pins out of my leg while my humans are in Mexico.
7. I will not spit my medication at my human.
8. I will not try to French kiss the female veterinarian.
9. I will not try to whip the male veterinarian.

--- Contributors ---

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Mark Alvarado	Nicki Davison	Coyote Holmberg	Jessica Mauch	Suzi Salazar
Beth Armstrong	Daneen Derby	Mike and Laurie	Nikole McKeny	Gary Santrucek
Amanda Aziano	Mike Dickinson	Howard	Rica Mendes	Ann Sawyer
Susan Babitz	Cynthia Lea Fast	Allen Hurst	Dawn Millard	Meghan Schofield
iVillage Iguanas message board	Eve Fern	Jen Hurt	Josh Miller	Toby Lee Spiegel
Cindy Bogue	Barbara Florence	Angela Indingaró	Amy Miran	Jenny Tawzer
Nathalie Bonnet	Lysette Fontana	Kim Kania	Mary Monaghan	Mary Taylor
Marian Briones	Suzanne Gates	Bonnie Key	Amy Navik	Maria Tomensky
Charley Brown	Thea Gilian	Tory Klementsén	Kirby Olson	Heather Weir
Tokaia Case	Pam Goda	Megan Koziel	Krista Perine	Shawn Wetmore
Cassandra	Jeannie Goodman	Stacey Kuhr	Rick Perkins	Justin Williams
Kristi Coles	Carly Grandysh	Hunter Latham	Ava Pettit-Mountain	Nancy Winton
Liza Daly	Andrea Greene	Bob LaViolette	Jerry Plummer	Shannon Wion
Deanne Davenport	Linda Greenleaf	Robyn Lingafelter	Dave Randolph	
Linda Davis	Hugh Greentree	Kathleen Lowery	Bonnie Rice	
	Becky Hoffman	Susan MacLeod	Catherine Rigby	