**Red Headed Agama**

**Native to:** Sub Saharan Africa

**Predators:** snakes, birds, other lizards, small mammals

**Prey:** insects primarily but will eat other small animals on occasion

**Facts:**

* They are active during the day time and usually hang out on rocks to sun themselves.
* The males, females, and dominate mammals all display different colors in their scales. Female have a darker body with darker olive colored heads subordinate males are lighter in color with darker heads. Dominate males have bright red heads and lighter almost blue color bodies.
* They can grow up to 11 inches in length with the males typically being longer than the females.
* They can survive temperatures up to 103 degrees F.
* Being a member of the agamid family of lizards they have pineal eye in the middle of their forehead it a set of photo sensitive neural cells that allows they to tell the difference between night and day.
* They are the most common species of lizard found in Northern Africa

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* They bite
* Speed

**Reproduction:**

* Females can lay 4 to 6 eggs in the wet season and the females stay with the nest until the clutch hatches.

**Lifespan:**  5 to 10 years in the wild 10-20 years in captivity

**Handling Tips:**

The Chinese water dragons are less than a year old and they should be handled with gentle restraint so they do not jump out of your hand they can be very quick.