**Chinese Water Dragons**

**Native to:** China and Mainland South East Asia

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

**Prey:** insects primarily but will take greens on occasion

**Facts:**

* They are active during the day time and usually hang out on trees or plants.
* They are found in semi tropical forests and need higher levels of humidity for their survival.
* They are a bright green in color which allows them to blend in the leaves on the plants live on during the daytime.
* They can grow to be 3 and half feet in length from head to tail.
* 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 Chinas national lizard species.

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* They bite or fall from the trees into water where they can stay submerged up to 90 minutes
* Camouflage pattern

**Reproduction:**

* Females can lay 4 to 6 eggs in the spring and they watch over the nest until the young have hatched

**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.