

# Lou the Lizard



Lou the lizard has lived in many places. When he first hatched out of an egg, it was in the desert. There was sand everywhere. He learned when he was very young to lay very still in the sand, waiting for a bug to come by. He would then dart his tongue out, and faster than you can say “zap” he would have his dinner. While in the desert, he liked to lay on a rock which had been warmed by the sun, and after dinner, fat and full, he would lay for hours.



The day came, however, when he and all his brothers and sisters had to move out of their nest in the desert. So they each headed out on their own. Some of his brothers and sisters didn't stray too far, preferring to stay nearby in the desert they knew.

Lou, however, had an adventurous streak in him, and he decided to see the world. First he headed for the city. Once he left the sand and crawled across the cement, he wasn't too sure about city life. He stopped every now and then for an insect snack, or to dart into the gutter to avoid the crowds, and then continued on. Pretty soon he would have to find a place he could call home. Just as he was wondering which direction to go, he looked up and saw a sign, **PET STORE**, and in the window another sign said “Lizards for Sale”. He didn't know what the words “for sale” meant, but he thought since other lizards lived there this would make a good home. So he crawled through the doorway into the pet store.



“Where did you escape from?” asked the shop owner when he saw Lou. He thought Lou was one of the lizards he had for sale. He picked Lou up and placed him in an empty glass bowl full of plants, called a terrarium, and gave him a pile of insects to eat.

At first, Lou thought this was a great place to life. All the right foods to eat, and all he had to do was sit there and wait. He didn't have to work for each meal. He grew big and fat. But he also became bored and lonesome. All the other lizards were in

separate glass bowls, just like him, and they were big and fat and lazy, and it was hard to make friends. As Lou watched people come in to buy pets, he began to wish someone would come and take him home. The shop keeper was always careful to tell the new owners what to feed their new pets. "Feed your parakeet birdseed" he would say "and plenty of water", or, "This food is special fish food for your new fish." Lou was sure he would be well fed, and perhaps he would have more room and friends, if someone would only buy him.

Lou's wish came true one day. A man and little boy came in looking for a pet. The shop keeper, however, was on vacation, and his son was running the shop. His son didn't know he should give all new pet owners feeding instructions, so the people who bought Lou didn't know what to feed him.



When the man and his little boy brought Lou home, they put Lou in a big window where there was lots of sun. At first Lou was very happy. He liked sitting in the warm sun and he liked the little boy who talked to him and kept him company. As the day wore on, however, he became hungry. He saw a few insects by the window, but he couldn't get them because the window was closed. Soon, the little boy came to feed him. He didn't know what lizards ate, so he fed Lou a part of a peanut butter sandwich. This was not what Lou needed, but since there was nothing else, he nibbled on a few crumbs.

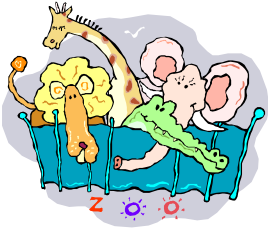


Later that night, the man came home from work. He fed Lou some lettuce. Again, this was not what Lou needed, but he nibbled on the edges.



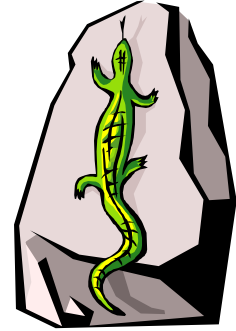
As the days went on, Lou grew weak and skinny. He was an insect eating lizard, and he needed insects to stay healthy and happy. The man and boy became very worried. They saw Lou getting skinny and unhappy, so they took him to a zoo to find out what Lou needed. The zoo keeper told them, "This lizard needs plenty of room, he needs sunshine, and company. He likes sand, but most of all, he needs to be fed insects. I know just the home for him."





Lou lives in the zoo now, with other lizards. His home has plenty of sand. It is warm and Lou is well fed. He has a favorite rock he likes to sit on. When the zoo keeper brings him insects, he sticks his tongue out and quicker than you can say “zap”

he has his dinner. The man and boy come and visit him often so he has their company, as well as the company of the other lizards that live at the zoo. Lou likes his new home.



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