

# Horned Lizard



A horned lizard is a type of lizard found in North America. There are 15 different types, or species of horned lizards.

The horned lizard is also known as a horned toad or horned frog. They get their name from the horns on their heads, which have a bony center. The spines on their back and sides are not horns, but scales.

The horned lizard eats ants and other insects. They are often found around ant beds. They are gentle lizards and do not bite. If a horned lizard is threatened, he often puffs up his body with air to appear larger. Some types of horned lizards will squirt blood from their eyes because their blood mixes with a chemical in their body that makes the blood taste bad to dogs, wolves and coyotes.

The population of horned lizards has declined because of human use of chemicals and the loss of food sources because of the arrival of fire ants from South America. Most states do not let people keep horned lizards as pets without permission.

## Horned Lizard Facts

- Horned lizards lay their eggs underground.
- Horned lizards hibernate in the winter.
- The average horned lizard is about 2 to 3 inches long.



## Tell a Story

Imagine you are the little horned lizard in this picture. Write a story about how the person found you and what happens next.

