

Ni (pronounced nee)

Well here I am again with another odd animal tale. This one is not really a rescue story but is one which had a number of surprises along the way.

This one is Ni (pronounced Nee). The name is Japanese for the number two. The number two because this was the second Bosc we'd had. the first was a sickly beast who sadly passed away within a few weeks of us getting it. Why Japanese? Well Dylan was training for his black belt at the time and all his 'form' drills were done to a count in Japanese.



He, or she as it turned out, was a Bosc Monitor lizard. They are native to Africa and are sometimes called Savannah monitors in the US.

They are also one of the bigger lizards we've had and can grow to between 4 and 5 feet long. Growing to this size also means they need a giant vivarium. Ni's was about 8 foot long 4 feet high and 3 feet six wide! As you can see it was so big that to fit it in the spare room I had to raise the single bed.

The cat and the Lizard

When we had bought Ni we had been told that it had been sexed and was male. We



took this as correct, and why wouldn't we? Anyway, they may grow large but they start off small so we settled Ni into his first vivarium and thought nothing more about it.

Bosc's eat mice or rats in captivity and so we started him off on fuzzies and slowly they got bigger and bigger. By the time Ni was approaching maturity he was wolfing down 3 or 4 'large rodents per meal. For the unwary, opening our freezer could be

a harrowing experience in those days.

Well Ni grew and grew and got to a size, where even our cat, who is a big thing itself weighing in at 7.5Kg, had to admit it couldn't stand up to it. Over the years we've come to believe that the cat conspires with some of the animals and helps them escape. Usually this was so he could harass them. We arrived home from work one day to discover that Ni had got out of his viv and was laying under a radiator as if he'd not a care in the world. At the door to the room was the cat, watching. He clearly knew he'd met his match and there had been an 'understanding' reached 😊

Gender

We began to notice that Ni had become listless and grew quite concerned. all was explained when we went to feed 'him' one day and this is what we saw. Yes, the 'he' was in fact a 'she'.



What we hadn't realised was that females can still lay eggs without a male, it is just they're infertile and don't hatch. Well, no wonder the poor bugger had been listless, she'd laid loads!



Unfortunately, that was to be the reason for her demise as about six months later she was again listless and we thought, here we go again. Sadly, she had become egg bound and died.

If ever our garden is excavated by future archaeologists, they will have a field day explaining the range of skeletons they find 😊

Until the next instalment of weird and wonderful animals – stay safe.