

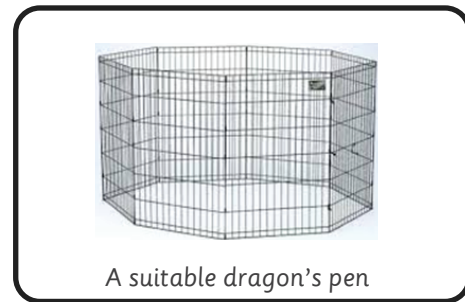
# How to train a dragon



Have you found yourself in charge of a dragon egg with no idea how to look after it? Dragons are famously tricky animals to control so you must follow these instructions carefully! However, be warned, if the training does not start when the dragon is young, then it will be even more of a challenge to tame.

## You will need the following equipment:

- Small pen made from metal, wood or concrete
- A back scratching stick
- Fish heads
- A clear, confident voice.



A suitable dragon's pen

## Method:

1. Firstly, it is important that, when the dragon is very young, you handle the hatchling every day as soon as it is born so that it becomes used to human contact.
2. As soon as the young dragon is calm, place four or five handfuls of smelly fish heads, which must be either salmon or haddock's heads, on the ground near you so that the dragon will eventually associate the delicious food with you.
3. After this, you'll need to teach the dragon to fly. To do this, you will need to be able to pick the young reptile up from behind, making sure you place your legs either side of the animal. Use a clear, confident voice to state "Stay" repetitively.
4. Once you are able to handle the dragon in a secure manner, you must now hold the beast up in the air and again say in your clear, confident voice, "Fly". It is important that you don't use a weak voice.
5. Next, make sure that you have built a strong and secure cage or pen for the dragon to sleep in during the day. As everyone knows, dragons are nocturnal (they sleep in the day and are awake at night) so they need somewhere safe to sleep in during the day. They normally sleep between 10 and 12 hours.
6. Finally, it is essential that you have a back-scratching stick available at all times! Any sudden movements might scare the animals! Use the stick to gently scratch the top of the dragon's head, using a horizontal motion but never a vertical one or your arm might not survive!

Remember that all of these steps must be completed when the dragon is young or they may not work! These instructions can be followed by one person because the dragon is small.



# Questions

1. Why must you follow the instructions carefully? (1 mark)

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2. When must the training be carried out? Why? (2 marks)

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3. Circle the equipment which is required. (1 mark)

big pen, stomach-scratching stick, fish heads	small pen, a back scratching stick, fish heads	straw pen, back scratching stick, fish bones	metal, wood or concrete pen, leg scratching stick, fish heads
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4. Order these statements (1-6) according to the order they need to be carried out. (6 marks)

<b>Hold the dragon in the air.</b>	
<b>Place fish heads on the ground.</b>	
<b>Build a strong cage.</b>	
<b>Handle the hatchling every day.</b>	
<b>Have a back-scratching stick available.</b>	
<b>Pick up the reptile.</b>	

5. Why must you handle the dragon every day? (1 mark)

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6. Why might you need to speak in a clear and confident voice when speaking to the dragon? (2 marks)

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7. What does the term 'nocturnal' mean? (1 mark)

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8. What direction must you scratch the dragon? Why? (2 marks)

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# Answers

1. Why must you follow the instructions carefully? (1 mark)

**Because dragons are famously tricky animals to control.**

2. When must the training be carried out? Why? (2 marks)

**When the dragon is young or it will be more of a challenge to tame.**

3. Circle the equipment which is required. (1 mark)

big pen, stomach-scratching stick, fish heads	<b>small pen, a back scratching stick, fish heads</b>	straw pen, back scratching stick, fish bones	metal, wood or concrete pen, leg scratching stick, fish heads
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4. Order these statements (1-6) according to the order they need to be carried out. (6 marks)

Hold the dragon in the air.	<b>4</b>
Place fish heads on the ground.	<b>2</b>
Build a strong cage.	<b>5</b>
Handle the hatchling every day.	<b>1</b>
Have a back-scratching stick available.	<b>6</b>
Pick up the reptile.	<b>3</b>

5. Why must you handle the dragon every day? (1 mark)

**So it becomes used to human contact.**

6. Why might you need to speak in a clear and confident voice when speaking to the dragon? (2 marks)

**Choose two: so it knows that it is a command / to show that you are not afraid of it / so that it can hear clearly / to show who is in charge**

7. What does the term 'nocturnal' mean? (1 mark)

**sleep in the day and are awake at night**

8. What direction must you scratch the dragon? Why? (2 marks)

**In a horizontal motion because if you do it in a vertical one, the dragon might bite your arm off.**

