

GREEN IGUANA HORROR STORIES



Before



After

Vito, an iguana already rescued from bad owners must endure more abuse and mistreatment before finally dying of the injuries he sustained.



And then there was Vinnie and the effort of one person to save him....

I named this lizard after a very special boxer named Vinnie Pazienza. Vinnie was always a fighter with great heart and guts. He got into a car accident and broke his neck. He was told he would never fight again. He came back. He trained with a halo screwed into his skull. Vinnie the Iguana wasn't as fortunate as Vinnie the boxer. He fought like hell just to survive the four years that he did. I probably was only a week or two too late.

I saw an add for him in the paper. The owner wanted \$50 for him and his 20 gallon tank. I'm not sure why I called. I would never buy an Iguana. I have 8, all of which are adoptions, 1 from The Iguana Den. There are so many Iguanas in need of a good home there is no reason to buy one. Anyway, I called. The woman told me they changed their minds and were going to keep him. So, I offered any help I could give and we got into talking about Iguana care. She realized it was her fault and admitted he was sick. She told me he was dragging his legs behind him. But, she only noticed he was not feeling so good two weeks ago. I offered to stop by and have a look at him.

When I got there I was sick to my stomach. He was in awful shape. His hind legs and tail were paralyzed. His spine and toes were deformed. His jaw was swollen and he had an over bite. When I picked him up he went into terrible convulsions.

He was about 6 inches SVL. Believe it or not he was over 4 years old. He should have been 12 to 14 inches SVL and about 4-5 pounds. He was only about 4-5 ounces. I took him home. I got him to eat collards and some water on Saturday night. I thought that was a good sign that he may have a chance to survive. I was wrong. When I woke up Sunday morning he was dead.