

The Komodo Dragon Expert

RAY: Have you noticed the “in vogue” words – words that you seem to hear more and more every day? Words like “pejorative” . . . “charisma” . . . and “dichotomy.” Susskindisms, we call them. (And I use that in the pejorative sense.) And – “expertise.” You seem to hear that every day more and more. Expertise implies that you’re listening, I guess, to the words of an expert, and that’s one thing we have plenty of here . . . experts. We’re fortunate to have with us, now, the world renowned Komodo dragon authority from Upper Montclair, New Jersey. His name is Doctor Daryll Dexter. Doctor, would you tell everybody all about the Komodo dragon, please?

DEXTER: The Komodo dragon is the world’s largest living lizard. It’s a ferocious carnivore. It’s found on the steep-sloped island of Komodo in the lesser Sunda Chain of the Indonesian Archipelago and the nearby islands of Rinja, Padar, and Flores.

RAY: Where do they come from?

DEXTER: Your Komodo dragon, the world’s largest living lizard, is found . . . in the lesser Sunda Chain of the Indonesian Archipelago . . . and the nearby islands of Rinja, Padar, and Flores. We have two in this country at the National Zoo in Washington . . . which were given to us by the late former Premier of Indonesia . . . Sukarno . . . some years ago.

RAY: I believe I read somewhere . . . that a foreign potentate gave America some Komodo dragons. Is that true?

DEXTER: Yes . . . the former Premier of Indonesia, Sukarno, gifted this country with two Komodo dragons – world’s largest living lizards . . . some years back . . . and they’re now residing at the National Zoo in Washington.

RAY: Well, now, if we wanted to take the children to see a Komodo dragon . . . where would we take the children to see a Komodo dragon?

DEXTER: If you were in the vicinity of our nation’s capital, Washington, D.C. . . . you would take the kiddos to the National Zoo, and there you would see two Komodo dragons . . . the world’s largest living lizard. There is a stuffed Komodo dragon in the lobby of the Royal Hotel in Katmandu, Nepal.

RAY: Er – they’re of the lizard family?

DEXTER: Yes. They are the world’s largest living lizard and a ferocious carnivore. One swipe of the Komodo dragon’s tail can render an enemy senseless.

RAY: Doctor . . . I believe we’ve just about exhausted the subject. I want to thank you for coming here from Upper Montclair. I know it was a great hardship for you to get here today. Do you have a ride home?

DEXTER: No, I don’t.

RAY: Well, maybe somebody from the audience will give you a ride home after the show. I know we all know a great deal more now about the Komodo dragon than we did a few moments ago.