

I'm not a robot

























these questions. Komodo dragons are strong, powerful, and deadly—but is there anything or anyone that can defeat them? What can kill a Komodo dragon—diseases, injuries, other predators? How dangerous are Komodo dragons, and do they have any natural predators? Or are they considered apex predators themselves? Keep reading! In this article, we'll answer all of these questions. Komodo dragons can be extremely dangerous; they are the largest lizards on earth, known for being strong and powerful. Though they don't have the strongest bite force among predators, their mouths are full sharp, venomous teeth. Their mouths are also filled with many kinds of bacteria from decaying meat. These strains of bacteria can cause blood poisoning in any creature a Komodo dragon bites. Komodo dragons use their powerful tails and thick, heavy bodies in a fight; they often fight each other for food or territory and can crush smaller prey without competition. Their bite force, though not the strongest, is still intense for an animal with such a lightweight skull and small teeth. As mentioned, the poison and bacteria in a Komodo dragon's mouth are also extremely dangerous. A Komodo dragon's venom can cause a sudden drop in blood pressure and prevent blood from clotting, causing their prey or a human victim to bleed out slowly over a couple of days, and if the venom doesn't kill it first, the blood poisoning surely will. Apex predators are animals that have no natural predators of their own—in other words, they are at the top of the food chain. So, do Komodo dragons qualify as apex predators? Like most predators, Komodo dragons can be hunted and killed when they are young and small, and even the adults may be hunted when they are injured or sick. But healthy adult Komodo dragons have no known predators in the wild—at least not in their natural environment. For this reason, yes, Komodo dragons are considered apex predators. They hunt all different types of prey animals, from small insects and birds to large mammals such as water buffalo. They are not hunted by any animals when they are healthy adults; in fact, they are feared and generally avoided by most animals they come in contact with. Again, though, they may be hunted and killed by other predators when they are young or injured. According to Reference.Com, young Komodo dragons are sometimes killed by large predators. To protect themselves, juvenile dragons spend much of their time up in trees to help them avoid drawing attention from more deadly creatures; they do this until they are large enough to fight back. Komodo dragons are resistant to many strains of bacteria often found in the carrion they eat; whereas other animals would likely develop bacterial infections from eating bacteria-infested meat, Komodo dragons can eat nearly anything they want without harm. That said, Komodo dragons can die from injuries and infections of other kinds. There are few viruses and bacteria they are not naturally immune to, but injuries can make them more prone to predators and possibly lead to excessive blood loss. Humans can kill Komodo dragons and sometimes do so unintentionally by interfering with their natural habitat and competing for food sources. Sometimes humans will kill Komodo dragons by shooting them out of self-defense or in an effort to protect their livestock from being hunted. Though Komodo dragons have no natural predators when they are fully grown. Young and injured Komodo dragons may be killed by some predators, including: Large predatory mammals: There are few predatory mammals on the Lesser Sunda Islands, where Komodo dragons are native, but those that do exist sometimes prey on young or injured dragons. Birds of prey: Large birds of prey such as eagles can easily hunt young Komodo dragons that may be attempting to hide in trees. The birds have excellent eyesight and can attack from the air, giving them an obvious advantage. Adult Komodo dragons: Sometimes adult Komodo dragons turn cannibalistic and prey on younger members of their own species. They do this especially in times of food shortage but may do so at other times after getting a taste for their own kind. Komodo dragons are apex predators, so there are few things in the wild that can kill them. Humans, diseases, or injuries sometimes kill them, and young or injured Komodo dragons sometimes fall prey to other predatory animals—sometimes juveniles are even eaten by adult Komodo dragons. How can financial brands set themselves apart through visual storytelling? Our experts explain how. Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collection captures events from 1895 to today's most recent coverage. Discover The CollectionCurated, compelling, and worth your time. 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