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AGAMAS

Australian Water Dragon

Intellagama lesueurii

Intellagama lesueurii is a large, semi-aquatic agamid from the streams of eastern Australia with powerful crests, a long, compressed tail and a length of 60-100 cm. It is active by day, climbs and swims well and can live for more than 20 years, but it needs a very large enclosure, a deep water section, strong UVB and high humidity.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Physignathus lesueurii; Istiurus lesueurii; Lophura lesueurii* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**60-100 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-25 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest, wetland and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**180 × 90 × 150 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-30 °C**
Basking spot	**35-40 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water section** depth 15-30 cm
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, plants and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**6-20 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2**
Incubation	**90 days** at 26-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A single adult needs an enclosure of at least 180 × 90 × 150 cm (length × width × height).
TEMPERATURE	The basking spot should be 35-40 °C and the cool end about 25 °C. Figures given for the basking spot range from about 35 to about 43 °C; if the animal rarely uses the basking spot, it is too hot.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should be about 60-80 %. The animals tolerate down to about 40 %, but persistently low humidity increases the risk of respiratory infection.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water section must be large and deep enough for the animal to submerge completely: at least 15 cm deep, preferably more, and at least three quarters as long as the animal, with an easy way up onto land.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Intellagama lesueurii* is active by day and needs UVB corresponding to Ferguson zone 3. Use a UVB tube of about 10 % covering most of the enclosure, and have the light on 10-12 hours a day controlled by a timer.
FEEDING	*Intellagama lesueurii* is omnivorous, but insects are the staple food. Use crickets, locusts, cockroaches and silkworms as the basic food, and give mealworms, giant mealworms and waxworms sparingly, because they are fatty.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Intellagama lesueurii* is shy in the wild, but quickly becomes used to people. Young animals are often nervous and jumpy, but most get used to handling when time is spent on it.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.