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AGAMAS

Eastern Bearded Dragon

Pogona barbata

Pogona barbata is one of the largest bearded dragons: a sturdy, diurnal agamid of 50-65 cm from the eastern forests and scrub of Australia, with a well-developed, dark beard and a yellow mouth lining. It is more territorial than *Pogona vitticeps*, likes to climb and needs a large enclosure, strong heat and UVB.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Agama barbata; Amphibolurus barbatus; Grammatophora barbata; Stellio discosomus* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**50-65 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal, terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Savanna and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**180 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-37 °C**
Basking spot	**42-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**12-24 °C**
Humidity	**30-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and plants**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-24 months**
Clutch size	**15-35 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-3**
Incubation	**55-75 days** at 28-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	The care of *P. barbata* has been only sparsely described for the species itself.
TEMPERATURE	Heat with at least two halogen spots above the basking spot. The surface there should be 42-45 °C measured with an infrared thermometer, and the hot spot should be at least as large as the whole animal including the tail.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should average 30-60 %, measured at the cool end. It naturally fluctuates: lower at the basking spot, higher at night and near the water.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Pogona barbata* depends on strong, white light, which promotes appetite and activity. The enclosure must be very bright, and the basking spot must be the brightest place.
FEEDING	*P. barbata* is omnivorous. In the wild the diet consists of insects, worms, small vertebrates and plant parts. Young animals get mostly insects and adults mostly plants.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Pogona barbata* is territorial and shows it more clearly than *Pogona vitticeps*. A black, flared beard, an open mouth showing the yellow interior, hissing and a small hop towards the opponent are threats.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.