herpy

AGAMAS

Black-soil Bearded Dragon

Pogona henrylawsoni

Pogona henrylawsoni is the smallest bearded dragon: a low, compact agamid of no more than about 30 cm from the treeless black clay plains of central Queensland, with a weak beard and a short, blunt head. It is diurnal and calm and needs far less space than *Pogona vitticeps*, but has the same need for heat, strong UVB and a diggable substrate, and lives 10-15 years.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Pogona brevis* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-30 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and savanna**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-29 °C**
Basking spot	**38-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**13-24 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and plants**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-24 months**
Clutch size	**5-19 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2**
Incubation	**58-64 days** at 29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A single adult needs an enclosure of at least 90 × 45 × 45 cm, and more space will be used. A small group, for example a male with one or more females, requires at least 120 × 60 × 60 cm.
TEMPERATURE	The basking spot should have a surface temperature of 38-45 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer on the stone. The cool end should be 24-29 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should average 30-50 %, measured in the middle of the enclosure with a digital hygrometer. Brief fluctuations up or down are harmless.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*P. henrylawsoni* is diurnal and needs plenty of bright white light and strong UVB. Use a T5 HO tube with 10-12 % UVB in a reflective fitting on the same side as the heat lamp.
FEEDING	*P. henrylawsoni* is omnivorous and eats mostly insects and leafy greens. Hatchlings (under 3 months): insects 2-3 times daily and greens daily. Young (3-7 months): insects twice daily and greens daily.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*P. henrylawsoni* is calm and tolerates gentle handling, but does not like being held firmly or turned onto its back and struggles if this happens.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.