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AGAMAS

Central Bearded Dragon

Pogona vitticeps

Pogona vitticeps is a sturdy, diurnal agamid from the dry interior of Australia with a spiny beard, which it flares and turns black when threatened. It grows to 45-60 cm and is one of the most commonly kept reptiles in the world. It forgives many mistakes, but needs a large enclosure, strong heat and UVB, greens for most meals and a keeper who is ready for 10-15 years.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Amphibolurus vitticeps* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**45-60 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling, terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and savanna**
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	**15-30 eggs**
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	A single adult needs an enclosure of at least 180 × 60 × 60 cm. The height should be 90 cm if possible, because the species climbs a lot. Small adults that reach only about 45 cm can manage with 120 × 60 × 60 cm.
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 need not exceed 50 °C.
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 vitticeps* depends on strong, white light: it promotes appetite, activity and wellbeing, and the species also sees UVA. The enclosure must therefore be very bright.
FEEDING	*Pogona vitticeps* is omnivorous. Young animals eat mostly insects, adults mostly plants. As a rule of thumb, animal food makes up about 60-80 % for hatchlings, 60 % for young and 15-30 % for adults.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Pogona vitticeps* is calm, curious and tolerates handling better than most lizards. Let a new animal get used to the enclosure for about two weeks before you pick it up.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.