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AGAMAS

Egyptian Spiny-tailed Lizard

Uromastyx aegyptia

Uromastyx aegyptia is the largest spiny-tailed lizard: a heavy, herbivorous desert lizard from Egypt, the Middle East and the Arabian Peninsula that can grow to 76 cm and weigh 2.5 kg. It digs deep burrows, basks in intense heat and needs a very large, dry enclosure with powerful UVB. The species is vulnerable in the wild and suits only an experienced keeper with plenty of space.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Stellio spinipes; Uromastyx leptieni; Uromastyx microlepis* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**40-76 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**1,000-2,500 g**
Lifespan	**15-30 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Desert and semi-desert**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**240 × 120 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-32 °C**
Basking spot	**50-55 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**20-30%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**16-22 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Plants**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**6-23 eggs**
Incubation	**56-84 days** at 33-34 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
An adult needs an enclosure of at least 240 × 120 × 120 cm (length × width × height).

TEMPERATURE
The basking spot must have a surface temperature of 50-55 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer directly under the lamp. The cool side is at 27-32 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Humidity must be low, about 20-30 %, measured at the floor on the cool side. Persistently high humidity makes the animal ill, so do not mist the enclosure.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species is diurnal and needs strong light. Use a large LED lamp or several fluorescent tubes of about 6500 K as daylight, separate from the heat; the animals are more active and eat better with it.

FEEDING
Uromastyx aegyptia is a herbivore. About 90 % of the food must be leafy greens and flowers, about 5 % hard vegetables and about 5 % dry food.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Adults are calm and stationary, but territorial towards their own kind, especially males towards males. Keep them singly.

NATIVE RANGE
Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman and Yemen.