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AGAMAS

Western Bearded Dragon

Pogona minor

Pogona minor is a medium-sized, relatively slender and diurnal bearded dragon of 30-40 cm from south-western and central Australia, with only a weak beard of small spines. It lives in dunes, scrub and dry woodland, eats mostly insects and lays several small clutches of eggs a year.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Amphibolurus minor; Pogona loriae*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**30-40 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	**120 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-37 °C**
Basking spot	**40-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**13-24 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and plants**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**5-19 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-4**
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

The care of *P. minor* has been only sparsely described. The figures for enclosure, temperature, humidity, light, food and lifespan are borrowed from *Pogona vitticeps* and the smaller *Pogona henrylawsoni*.

TEMPERATURE

Heat with at least two halogen spots above the basking spot. The surface there should be 40-45 °C measured with an infrared thermometer, and the hot spot should be at least as large as the whole animal.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be 30-50 %, measured at the cool end, and the enclosure must be able to dry out, because the species lives in dry regions. Stagnant, wet air and a wet substrate cause illness.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Pogona minor depends on strong, white light, which promotes appetite and activity. The basking spot must be the brightest place, and 75-100 % of the length of the enclosure should be lit.

FEEDING

Pogona minor is mostly insectivorous. In the wild insects and other small animals make up about 80 % of the diet and plant parts about a fifth. Hatchlings (under 3 months): insects 2-3 times daily and greens daily.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Pogona minor is diurnal and basks a lot. The animal uses body language like other bearded dragons: males bob their heads at rivals, and waving a foreleg is a sign of submission.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia.