herpy

AGAMAS

North-west Bearded Dragon

Pogona mitchelli

Pogona mitchelli is a slender, diurnal bearded dragon of about 40 cm from tropical north-western Australia, with a weak beard and stronger spines on the neck than *Pogona minor*. Its care follows its closest relatives: heat, strong UVB, a diggable substrate and mostly insects.

Family: Agamidae

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	**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	**18-24 °C**
Humidity	**30-60%**
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	**Not Evaluated (NE)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Little is known about the care of *Pogona mitchelli*. The climate in the range is hot all year with a short wet season and a long, dry period with cool nights.

TEMPERATURE

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

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be 30-60 %, measured at the cool end, and the enclosure must be able to dry out between mistings.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Pogona mitchelli is diurnal and needs very bright, white light and strong UVB. Use a T5 HO tube of 10-14 % UVB in a reflective fixture over the warm side, parallel to the heat lamps.

FEEDING

Pogona mitchelli is fed mostly insects and a little greens: Hatchlings (under 3 months): insects 2-3 times daily and greens daily. Juveniles (3-12 months): insects and greens daily.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Pogona mitchelli is diurnal and basks a lot. Like other bearded dragons, it uses body language: males bob their heads at rivals and females, and waving a foreleg is a sign of submission. The beard display is weak.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia.