herpy

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*

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. Less gives too little space for both exercise and a temperature gradient.

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.