herpy

GECKOS

Standing's day gecko

Phelsuma standingi

Phelsuma standingi is one of the largest day geckos: a stout, diurnal climber from the dry spiny forests of south-western Madagascar, with a green, dark-spotted neck and head, a greyish body and a turquoise-blue tail. The young bear distinct crossbands. The species is robust and long-lived, but it is aggressive and needs a tall, spacious enclosure.

Family: Gekkonidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-26 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**20-28 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Savanna and dry forest**
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**75 × 75 × 110 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**19-23 °C**
Humidity	**40-80%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit and nectar**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**14-24 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**4-6**
Incubation	**60-65 days** at 25-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult needs a tall enclosure of at least 75 × 75 × 110 cm (width × depth × height). Bigger is better, and height is important, because the species is strongly arboreal.
TEMPERATURE	The temperature should be 24-28 °C by day, with a warm basking spot of 30-32 °C at the top under a lamp mounted outside the enclosure. This gives a gradient that the animal can choose from.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should be 40-80 %. Even though the species comes from a dry area, the air is humid at night, and the enclosure should therefore be misted thoroughly in the evening, so the humidity rises while the gecko rests.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and lives in full sun, so it needs strong daylight in the enclosure.
FEEDING	The species is primarily insectivorous. Offer varied live insects such as crickets, grasshoppers, flies, moths and other flying and crawling insects of a size the animal can easily swallow.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Phelsuma standingi* is a robust day gecko that is not particularly shy, but it is not an animal to be handled. Males are territorial and fight each other; females are just as aggressive towards other females.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.