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GECKOS

Common Barking Gecko

Ptenopus garrulus

A small, sand-coloured gecko from the Kalahari that lives in self-dug burrows in the sand and only comes out at sunset. The males sit at the burrow entrance and call with a sharp, barking sound that carries a long way. Little is known about the care of the species.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Stenodactylus garrulus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-9 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**6-10 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Desert, semi-desert and savanna**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Winter rest	**18-21 °C** 6-8 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1 eggs**
Incubation	**60-80 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

Little is known about the care of *Ptenopus garrulus*. The advice is based on the species' way of life and on small desert geckos with the same way of life, *Stenodactylus sthenodactylus* and *Stenodactylus petrii*.

TEMPERATURE

Provide a gradient so the animal can choose for itself. By day the temperature should be 24-28 °C, and an area of about a third of the floor is heated to 32-35 °C. At night it should fall to 18-22 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Keep the air dry and well ventilated, at around 30-50% relative humidity. Mist lightly at one end of the enclosure, in the evening before the gecko comes out, so the animal can drink droplets and feel a little moisture.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is active at sunset and at night and spends the day buried, so UVB is not essential when the insects are dusted with calcium and vitamin D3.

FEEDING

The gecko is an insectivore. In the wild it takes termites, ants and beetles, and it sits at the burrow entrance and hunts nearby. Small crickets and small roaches make a good staple.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The gecko is shy and spends most of its life in a burrow in the sand. Handle it only when it has to be moved, and never grab the tail. Take care, because the animal is small and fragile.

NATIVE RANGE

Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.