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IGUANAS

Eastern Fence Lizard

Sceloporus undulatus

A small, fast sun-lover from the eastern USA that sits on fence posts, tree trunks and rock piles. The male has blue and black patches on the belly and throat and shows them off with push-ups. The species is robust and insectivorous, but needs a powerful basking spot, UVB and a roomy enclosure with space to run.

Family: Phrynosomatidae English name: Eastern fence lizard Former name: *Sceloporus floridanus; Agama undulata; Lacerta undulata*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-19 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**4-5 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal, rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**80 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-28 °C**
Basking spot	**38-42 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**8-12 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-24 months**
Clutch size	**3-13 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-4**
Incubation	**55-70 days** at 27-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
An adult needs an enclosure of at least 80 × 40 × 40 cm (length × width × height). A pair or a male with two females needs at least 100 × 50 × 50 cm.

TEMPERATURE
By day the background temperature should be 27-28 °C. Directly under a heat lamp there should be a basking spot of 38-42 °C, measured on the surface with an infrared thermometer.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Humidity should be moderate, about 40-60 %. The species lives in open, sunlit areas and does not tolerate permanently steamy conditions, but the substrate must not be bone dry either.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Sceloporus undulatus is a diurnal, sun-loving species that needs strong light and UVB all year. Use a UVB tube for sun-loving species (Ferguson zone 3) or a combined UVB metal halide lamp over the basking spot.

FEEDING
Sceloporus undulatus is insectivorous, and in the wild ants, beetles and spiders make up a large part of the diet.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
S. undulatus is wary, fast and territorial. Males display with push-ups, head-bobs and an inflated body and defend their place against other males. The species does not become tame and is not suited to handling.

NATIVE RANGE
United States.