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LACERTIDS

Atlantic Lizard

Gallotia atlantica

Gallotia atlantica is a small, diurnal lizard from Lanzarote, Fuerteventura and the surrounding islets. Males grow up to 29 cm and have large blue spots on the flanks. The species is aggressive towards its own kind and is best kept as a pair in a dry, sunny enclosure with many hiding places and a cool winter rest. The young are delicate and are reared separately.

Family: Lacertidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-29 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**80 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-31 °C**
Basking spot	**35-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-21 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**12-15 °C** 8-9 weeks
Diet	**Insects, fruit and plants**
Kept	**In pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-5 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-3**
Incubation	**64-87 days** at 28-31 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Gallotia atlantica moves mostly on the ground, so floor area matters more than height. A pair needs an enclosure of at least 80 × 40 × 40 cm (length × width × height).

TEMPERATURE

The daytime temperature in the enclosure is 25-31 °C, and a spotlight above a flat stone gives a surface temperature of 35-45 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer. At night the temperature drops to 15-21 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The enclosure is dry, with a humidity of around 30-50 %, and has no damp zones apart from the egg-laying container. Provide a shallow bowl of fresh water that is always full and changed regularly. Ventilation must be good.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Gallotia atlantica is diurnal and basks for several hours, so the enclosure needs strong light.

FEEDING

Gallotia atlantica is omnivorous. Offer mostly insects: fly larvae, crickets, mealworms and zophobas, cockroaches and small grasshoppers, dusted with calcium.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Gallotia atlantica is shy and flees quickly when someone enters the room, and it should not be grabbed. The tail is shed under stress and grows back without new vertebrae. Males are fiercely territorial.

NATIVE RANGE

Spain.