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LACERTIDS

Eastern Green Lizard

Lacerta viridis

Lacerta viridis is a large, slender, diurnal lizard of the warm, sunny slopes and scrub of eastern and south-eastern Europe, with a green body, black spots and a tail that makes up two thirds of its length. The species grows to 25-40 cm, feeds on insects and other small animals, and needs sun, a large enclosure or an outdoor enclosure and a cold brumation.

Family: Lacertidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-40 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rocky terrain and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 60 × 75 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-30 °C**
Basking spot	**38-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**12-18 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**4-6 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-36 months**
Clutch size	**4-24 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-2**
Incubation	**70-100 days** at 26-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Lacerta viridis* is large and active, likes to climb and uses the whole space. A pair or a male with two females needs an indoor enclosure of at least 150 × 60 × 75 cm (length × width × height), and larger is better.
TEMPERATURE	*Lacerta viridis* loves the sun, and active animals in the wild have a body temperature of about 34 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity must be 40-60 %, with a slightly moister part and a dry part, so that the animals can choose for themselves.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Lacerta viridis* is diurnal and basks for several hours every day, so it needs strong light and UVB. Outdoors the UVB comes from the sun.
FEEDING	*Lacerta viridis* feeds on beetles, grasshoppers, caterpillars, flies, moths, spiders, earthworms, woodlice, snails and other small animals, and large animals also take small lizards.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Lacerta viridis* is fast, wary and shy. A new animal takes a long time to settle in and hides at every approach until then. Feeding with tweezers makes the animal confident.
NATIVE RANGE	Germany, Austria, Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Turkey.