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LACERTIDS

Common Wall Lizard

Podarcis muralis

Podarcis muralis is a slender, fast, diurnal lizard that climbs on rocks, walls and cliff faces across large parts of southern and central Europe. It reaches 15-23 cm including the tail and feeds on insects and other small animals. The species needs sun, UVB, a roomy enclosure with rock structure and a cold brumation, and it does best with an outdoor summer enclosure.

Family: Lacertidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-23 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	**100 × 50 × 50 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-30 °C**
Basking spot	**40-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**14-18 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**4-6 °C** 8-16 weeks
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-48 months**
Clutch size	**2-12 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-3**
Incubation	**35-45 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

An ordinary small glass enclosure is too small for *Podarcis muralis*. A pair needs at least 100 × 50 × 50 cm, and each extra female needs about 20 cm more in length.

TEMPERATURE

The gradient is the most important thing. The basking spot must be 40-45 °C at the surface, measured with an infrared thermometer, and the rest of the enclosure 22-30 °C by day.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity must be moderate: 40-60 % by day and preferably higher at night in the hides where the animals sleep. The enclosure must dry out completely during the day.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Podarcis muralis is diurnal and loves the sun. The enclosure needs a powerful heat spot and UVB light.

FEEDING

Podarcis muralis is an insectivore. The food is small live insects and other small animals: crickets, grasshoppers, flies, fruit flies, mealworms in small amounts, spiders, woodlice and worms.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Podarcis muralis is fast, shy and territorial. The males mark territory with body language and scent trails, and two males in the same enclosure fight until the weaker one becomes stressed, loses weight or gets bite wounds.

NATIVE RANGE

Spain, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey and Ukraine.