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MONITOR LIZARDS

Storr's Monitor

Varanus storri

A small, fast, ground-dwelling dwarf monitor from Queensland in Australia that grows to about 30 cm and lives on insects. It needs a long, warm enclosure with deep substrate to dig in, UVB and hides under stones, and it is an animal for observation, not for daily handling. The animals can live for at least 12 years.

Family: Varanidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-33 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**12 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and savanna**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**80 × 50 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-30 °C**
Basking spot	**45 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**50-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2-6 eggs**
Incubation	**100 days** at 28-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult needs an enclosure of at least 80 × 50 × 60 cm (length × width × height), and a larger one is better. The species lives on the ground, so floor area counts for more than height.
TEMPERATURE	There must be a large temperature gradient so the animal can choose for itself. The gradient should run from about 24 °C at the cool end to about 45 °C at the basking spot.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity in the enclosure is moderate, about 50-60 %.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and dependent on strong light and UVB.
FEEDING	*V. storri* lives mostly on insects and other invertebrates. Offer crickets, grasshoppers, roaches and superworm larvae, in a size the animal can easily catch.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*V. storri* is quick and watchful. It is small, and bites from an animal of 30 cm are not serious as with the large monitors, but the sharp claws and pointed teeth can cause wounds that must be cleaned thoroughly.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.