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SERPIENTES

Western Terrestrial Garter Snake

Thamnophis elegans

Thamnophis elegans is a slender, diurnal garter snake from western North America, where it lives from the Pacific coast to the mountains and open plains, usually not far from water. It is hardy and can live on thawed mice, but it slips out through the smallest gap and needs a completely secure enclosure. Its care is based on the closely related *Thamnophis sirtalis*.

Familia: Colubridae

DATOS CLAVE

EL ANIMAL

Tamaño adulto	**50-105 cm** longitud total con la cola
Esperanza de vida	**6-10 años**
Activo	**De día**
Modo de vida	**Terrestre y semiacuático**
Hábitat	**Humedal y bosque y prado templados**
Dificultad	**Principiante**

CUIDADOS

Terrario mín.	**100 × 50 × 50 cm** L × An × Al para 1 adulto
Temperatura, día	**23-27 °C**
Punto caliente	**29-32 °C**
Temperatura, noche	**18-22 °C**
Humedad	**35-60 %**
Agua	**Bebedero**
UVB	**Recomendado** Zona Ferguson 2
Reposo invernal	**8-15 °C** 8-16 semanas
Alimentación	**Vertebrados y lombrices/caracoles**
Se mantiene	**En solitario o en grupo**

CRÍA

Reproducción	**Vivípara**
Madurez sexual	**18-30 meses**
Tamaño de la camada	**8-12 crías**
Puestas por año	**1**
Gestación	**60-90 días**

PROTECCIÓN Y TRÁMITES

CITES	**No incluida**
Anexo de la UE	**No incluida**
UICN	**Preocupación menor (LC)**

Cuidados de un vistazo

EL TERRARIO	Little is known about the care of *Thamnophis elegans* in captivity.
TEMPERATURA	There must be a clear heat gradient. The basking spot should be 29-32 °C measured at the surface, the cool end 23-27 °C and the night 18-22 °C. The heat source is switched off at night.
HUMEDAD Y AGUA	Humidity should be 35-60 %, highest at the cool end and at night. The enclosure should not be wet, because constant dampness causes blisters on the belly.
ILUMINACIÓN Y UVB	The species is diurnal and thrives in strong daylight. UVB is not strictly necessary but is recommended and often makes the snake more active.
ALIMENTACIÓN	In the wild, *Thamnophis elegans* eats slugs, earthworms, salamanders, frogs and tadpoles, leeches, fish, lizards and small mammals.
COMPORTAMIENTO Y MANIPULACIÓN	*Thamnophis elegans* is quick and alert and usually becomes calm if handled regularly from a young age. Let new animals settle in for about two weeks, and begin handling them only once they are feeding steadily.
ÁREA DE DISTRIBUCIÓN NATURAL	Canadá, México y Estados Unidos.