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SERPENTS

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*.

Famille: Colubridae

INFORMATIONS ESSENTIELLES

L'ANIMAL

Taille adulte	**50-105 cm** longueur totale queue comprise
Espérance de vie	**6-10 ans**
Activité	**Le jour**
Mode de vie	**Terrestre et semi-aquatique**
Habitat	**Zone humide et forêt et prairie tempérées**
Difficulté	**Débutant**

ENTRETIEN

Terrarium min.	**100 × 50 × 50 cm** L × l × H pour 1 adulte
Température, jour	**23-27 °C**
Zone de bain de soleil	**29-32 °C**
Température, nuit	**18-22 °C**
Hygrométrie	**35-60 %**
Eau	**Gamelle d'eau**
UVB	**Recommandés** Zone de Ferguson 2
Repos hivernal	**8-15 °C** 8-16 semaines
Alimentation	**Vertébrés et vers/escargots**
Détention	**Seul ou en groupe**

REPRODUCTION

Reproduction	**Vivipare**
Maturité sexuelle	**18-30 mois**
Taille de la portée	**8-12 petits**
Pontes par an	**1**
Gestation	**60-90 jours**

PROTECTION ET FORMALITÉS

CITES	**Non inscrite**
Annexe UE	**Non inscrite**
UICN	**Préoccupation mineure (LC)**

L'entretien en bref

LE TERRARIUM	Little is known about the care of *Thamnophis elegans* in captivity.
TEMPÉRATURE	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.
HYGROMÉTRIE ET EAU	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.
ÉCLAIRAGE ET 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.
ALIMENTATION	In the wild, *Thamnophis elegans* eats slugs, earthworms, salamanders, frogs and tadpoles, leeches, fish, lizards and small mammals.
COMPORTEMENT ET MANIPULATION	*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.
AIRE D'ORIGINE	Canada, Mexique et États-Unis.