herpy

GECKOS

Centralian rough knob-tail gecko

Nephrurus amyae

A stocky desert gecko from the red centre of Australia with a bulldog head, rough, spiny skin and a small knob at the end of the tail, which it waves when hunting. It is the largest of the knob-tailed geckos, lives on insects and thrives in a dry sand terrarium with a damp hide.

Family: Carphodactylidae Published 14 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-14 cm** snout-vent length
Weight	**40-65 g**
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-24 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-6**
Incubation	**80-100 days** at 27-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	The species lives on the ground, so floor area counts, while height is almost irrelevant. An adult needs at least 60 × 45 × 30 cm (length × width × height).
TEMPERATURE	Keep 24-28 °C in the enclosure by day and a warm spot of 30-32 °C, for example with a heat mat under one end or a small halogen spot, so that the animal can choose for itself. At night the temperature may fall to 20-23 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 30-50 %, and most of the enclosure must be dry. Mist lightly once or twice a week in the evening, so the gecko can lick droplets from glass and stones.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The gecko is nocturnal and sees little of the light.
FEEDING	The gecko is a greedy insectivore. Adults get live insects three times a week, preferably a varied selection of crickets, roaches, mealworms, superworms and silkworms. Large roaches are often the favourite.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is calm, but does not like being handled. Pick it up seldom and briefly, and sit low, because it is no climber and can fall. If you hold too hard, it struggles or barks. Never grab the tail.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/gekkoer/nephrurus-amyae