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GECKOS

Carter's rock gecko

Pristurus carteri

A small, diurnal rock gecko from the Arabian Peninsula that basks on rocks and curls its tail up over its back like a scorpion. It grows to 8-11 cm including the tail, needs heat, strong light and UVB, and is best as an animal to watch.

Family: Sphaerodactylidae Former name: *Spatalura carteri* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**8-11 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**28-30 °C**
Basking spot	**40-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-40%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**10 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**70-90 days** at 28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
One adult needs an enclosure with a floor of at least 60 × 60 cm. Floor area matters more than height, because *Pristurus carteri* lives on rocks and stones, and 40 cm of height is enough.

TEMPERATURE
Create a clear temperature gradient. The cool end is kept at 28-30 °C, and under a spotlight a basking spot of 40-45 °C is made, so that the animal can choose for itself.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
The air should be dry, about 30-40 %. The dry substrate and good ventilation keep the humidity down, and a hygrometer shows whether the level is holding. Provide a shallow bowl of fresh water, changed daily.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Pristurus carteri is diurnal and basks, so light is very important. Provide strong daylight and a UVB tube, for example a T5 tube with 10-12 % UVB, over the basking spot.

FEEDING
The species is an insectivore. Offer as varied a selection as possible: crickets, small cockroaches, small grasshoppers and flies.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Pristurus carteri is a small, fast and wary animal that is not suited to handling. It is easily stressed, and the tail can break off if you grip it. Pick it up only when necessary, and never outdoors.

NATIVE RANGE
Oman, Yemen, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.