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SERPENTI

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*.

Famiglia: Colubridae

DATI ESSENZIALI

L'ANIMALE

Dimensioni da adulto	**50-105 cm** lunghezza totale inclusa la coda
Aspettativa di vita	**6-10 anni**
Attività	**Di giorno**
Stile di vita	**Terrestre e semiacquatico**
Habitat	**Zona umida e bosco e prato temperati**
Difficoltà	**Principiante**

CURA

Terrario min.	**100 × 50 × 50 cm** L × P × H per 1 adulto
Temperatura, giorno	**23-27 °C**
Punto caldo	**29-32 °C**
Temperatura, notte	**18-22 °C**
Umidità	**35-60%**
Acqua	**Ciotola d'acqua**
UVB	**Consigliati** Zona Ferguson 2
Riposo invernale	**8-15 °C** 8-16 settimane
Alimentazione	**Vertebrati e vermi/lumache**
Detenzione	**Singolarmente o in gruppo**

RIPRODUZIONE

Riproduzione	**Vivipara**
Maturità sessuale	**18-30 mesi**
Piccoli per parto	**8-12 piccoli**
Deposizioni all'anno	**1**
Gestazione	**60-90 giorni**

TUTELA E DOCUMENTI

CITES	**Non elencata**
Allegato UE	**Non elencata**
IUCN	**Minima preoccupazione (LC)**

La cura in breve

IL 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.
UMIDITÀ E ACQUA	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.
ILLUMINAZIONE E 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.
ALIMENTAZIONE	In the wild, *Thamnophis elegans* eats slugs, earthworms, salamanders, frogs and tadpoles, leeches, fish, lizards and small mammals.
COMPORTAMENTO E MANIPOLAZIONE	*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.
AREALE D'ORIGINE	Canada, Messico e Stati Uniti.