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COBRAS

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*.

Família: Colubridae

DADOS PRINCIPAIS

O ANIMAL

Tamanho adulto	**50-105 cm** comprimento total com a cauda
Longevidade	**6-10 anos**
Ativo	**De dia**
Estilo de vida	**Terrestre e semiaquático**
Habitat	**Área úmida e bosque e prado temperados**
Dificuldade	**Iniciante**

CUIDADOS

Terrário mín.	**100 × 50 × 50 cm** C × L × A para 1 adulto
Temperatura, dia	**23-27 °C**
Ponto quente	**29-32 °C**
Temperatura, noite	**18-22 °C**
Umidade	**35-60%**
Água	**Recipiente de água**
UVB	**Recomendado** Zona de Ferguson 2
Repouso de inverno	**8-15 °C** 8-16 semanas
Alimentação	**Vertebrados e minhocas/caracóis**
Mantido	**Sozinho ou em grupo**

REPRODUÇÃO

Reprodução	**Vivíparo**
Maturidade sexual	**18-30 meses**
Tamanho da ninhada	**8-12 filhotes**
Posturas por ano	**1**
Gestação	**60-90 dias**

PROTEÇÃO E DOCUMENTAÇÃO

CITES	**Não listado**
Anexo da UE	**Não listado**
IUCN	**Menos preocupante (LC)**

Resumo dos cuidados

O TERRÁRIO	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.
UMIDADE E ÁGUA	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.
ILUMINAÇÃO 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.
ALIMENTAÇÃO	In the wild, *Thamnophis elegans* eats slugs, earthworms, salamanders, frogs and tadpoles, leeches, fish, lizards and small mammals.
COMPORTAMENTO E MANUSEIO	*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 OCORRÊNCIA NATURAL	Canadá, México e Estados Unidos.