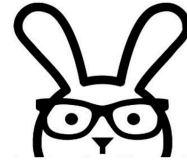


Eastern Water Dragon Care



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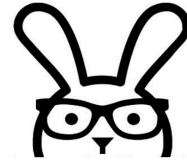
- ***Physignathus lesueurii lesueurii***
- Lifespan: 15-25 years
- Puberty: 6m-1yr years of age
- Arboreal; semi-aquatic
- Diurnal

Enclosure

- Arboreal is essential
- 2m x 2m x 1m min for pair (adults can reach 95cm long)
- Volume of water should be at least enough for them to submerge 50% of body height
 - Water filter required. Filter should filter 2-3x the volume of the water an hour
 - Water quality should be checked once a week
 - pH 7.4
 - No ammonia or nitrites
 - <25ppm nitrates
 - When changing water do not change more than 50% of the water
 - Running water/waterfalls can be really good
 - Water temps 16-28°C
- Like lots of cover
- Barriers to glass as prone to nasal trauma
- Substrate deep enough for female to dig
 - Play sand and soil is recommended for this
- Temperature
 - Should be checked daily
 - A thermometer at the dragon's height at the basking end and the cool end is recommended as well as a temperature gun.
 - The cool end should be around 26°C (dropping to no less than 24°C at night)
 - The warm end should be around 34°C with the basking zone being up to 40°C
 - A radiant heat source is recommended but should be covered to prevent burns
 - Hot rocks are not recommended
 - Heat source should be overlapping with the UV bulb to create an artificial sun
- Humidity <50% → over this has been seen to promote mould growth
 - Measured daily with a hygrometer
- UVB
 - 12-14% UV bulb; Arcadia proT5
 - 2 tubes → one to cover height and one to cover length when in an arboreal set-up
 - Make sure the distance between the bulb and water dragon matches what is specified on the bulb instructions
 - Make sure there is no glass or plastic between the bulb and the water dragon
 - Bulbs should be changed every 6-9 months if output is not monitored by not a solarmeter

Diet

- Insectivorous but will eat some vegetables → more so as adults (<15% of diet)
- Best fed in the morning so they are able to digest throughout the day
 - crickets, dubia roaches, snails, earthworms, black soldier fly larvae, silkworms, moths, locusts... mealworms are treat food only
 - Insects should be gut loaded 24-48 hours prior to feeding with a suitable gut loading food (Repashy Superload or Arcadia Insect Fuel)
 - Just before being fed the insects can then be dusted with a calcium supplement (Flukers Ca without D3 and phosphorus is ideal)
 - Once every 2 weeks a multivitamin such can be dusted onto the insects instead (Repashy Calcium Plus as has the correct form of Vitamin A for insectivores)
- Hatchlings and juveniles fed daily
 - Each feed should consist of 5-10 insects
- Adults fed every other day
 - Each feed can have 10-20 insects
- Don't feed anything larger than the width between the dragons eyes



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Sexing

- Males larger than females
- Unable to do this until fully sexually mature
- Males have red chest
- Males have wider neck and jaw