



European Legless Lizard Care Sheet

Species name:

Pseudopus apodus

Adult size:

100 -120 cm

Lifespan:

30 Years

Breeding age:

2-3 years



European legless lizards, often mistaken for snakes, are fascinating captives. Unlike snakes, they have eyelids and external ear openings.

These lizards thrive in terrariums mimicking their natural habitat, requiring ample hiding spots and a substrate for burrowing. They are generally insectivorous, feeding on crickets, mealworms, and similar prey. Captive care includes maintaining appropriate humidity and temperature levels. Handling should be minimal to reduce stress, ensuring a healthy, long-lived pet.

Housing:

Enclosure: As a terrestrial species, Legless Lizards will prefer a vivarium which is long and deep to allow for burrowing. A 3-4ft wooden vivarium would be ideal.

Substrate: Use a substrate that is dry and allows for easy burrowing. A soil/sand mix would be best.

Temperature:

Maintain a temperature gradient within the enclosure. Provide a heat source, such as a heating pad or ceramic heat emitter on one side, to achieve a warm side.

Basking spot temperatures between 35-32°C

Warm side temperature of around 21-25°C

Cooler side around 22-23°C

Night-time temperature: 18°C

Lighting:

European Legless Lizards require 12% UVB lighting.

They will also require a day/night cycle. It is recommended they are provided with around 14 hours of light during the summer and down to 10 hours in the winter.

Feeding:

Diet: Feed a well-balanced diet consisting of live insects like crickets and small mealworms. Supplement this diet with calcium or multivitamin dust at least twice a week.

Feeding Schedule: Feed every other day for adults and daily for juveniles.



Hydration:

Water Bowl: Provide a shallow water dish for drinking. Mist the enclosure daily to maintain humidity levels around 50-60% and provide water droplets for the gecko to lick.

Handling and Enrichment:

Gentle Handling: European Legless Lizards should only be handled when it is necessary, these reptiles stress very easily and can be very fragile.

Enrichment: Provide climbing opportunities and branches. Artificial plants and hiding spots can help create a more stimulating environment. Use a thick layer of substrate which allows your lizard to burrow.

Health Care:

Health Checks: Regularly observe your European Legless Lizard to see if you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance. If something does not seem right seek professional advice promptly.

Hygiene: Keep the enclosure clean, removing waste and uneaten food promptly.

Quarantine: Quarantine new lizards before introducing them to existing ones to prevent the spread of disease.

European Legless Lizards make fascinating and low-maintenance pets when provided with the right care. Always do thorough research and consult with a veterinarian for specific advice based on your Lizard's individual needs.