

Steppe Runner Lizard

Steppe runner lizards are quite new to the pet trade and are native to Romania, Ukraine and Russia. They are rather hardy lizards with a variation in what is considered normal body colour. Some can be very darkly coloured while others may be very light in colouration. They are good pets for reptile keepers whether that is beginners or experienced keepers.



Glossary

Reptile – A cold-blooded vertebrate with scaly skin.

Amphibian – A cold-blooded vertebrate that begins life as an aquatic animal and grows into a terrestrial adult with lungs.

Terrestrial – A ground dwelling animal.

Arboreal – An animal that lives in trees.

Diurnal – Awake in the day.

Nocturnal – Awake during the night.

UVB – Ultraviolet radiation.

Colubrid – A family of snakes.

Hybrid – Offspring from animals of different species.

Morph – Colourations created due to genetics.

Musk – Unpleasant odour released when an animal is stressed or feels threatened.

Live plants are only available on special order

If you require any further information, please ask our pet care advisors who will be very happy to help.

Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

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Steppe Runner Lizard



Care & Advice Sheet

Inspiration for your Home & Garden



Size & Housing

These lizards reach a length of 6 inches as an adult. They are terrestrial animals but will climb to explore or reach the warmest area. Wooden vivariums are recommended in minimum sizes of:

60 x 45 x 45cm / 24 x 18 x 18" – Minimum for 1 Adult

90 x 45 x 45cm / 36 x 18 x 18" – Minimum for 2 Adults

Substrate & Furnishings

Reptile sands are the most natural substrate to have for steppe runner lizards however other substrates such as desert bedding or corn cob granules can be used. Spot pick the enclosure daily and full clean once or twice a month using a reptile specific disinfectant.

Logs, branches, bark and artificial plants and hides should be used to create a natural enclosure. Any stacked rocks must be stable so they cannot fall on your lizard as they will often dig under them. Ensure there are many hides and basking areas to avoid territorial disputes.

Lighting & Temperature

Provide essential UVB (12%) to create a daytime cycle of 10–12 hours a day. This is best controlled by a timer. The cool end of the tank should be around 26°C with a basking area of 37–38°C – this is best achieved by using a heat bulb or ceramic heat emitter with a guard, controlled by a thermostat at all times. The cool end can drop to 21°C at night and the hot end should be maintained between 23–26°C. Moonlight bulbs that give off very minimal light can be used to maintain this.

Food & Water

Steppe runner lizards are insectivores and should be fed a variety of appropriate sized insects such as:

- Crickets
- Locusts
- Mealworms
- Waxworms (treat)

Insects should be gut loaded before feeding and dusted with a calcium supplement 3 times a week and multivitamins (Nutrobal) once a week.

Fresh water should be offered daily. The enclosure should have a very low humidity level with adequate ventilation but will enjoy a light misting occasionally.

Handling

Usually they are quite tolerate of handling and may eat directly from your hand. They are not fond of being grabbed or wrapped by fingers but will often curl up in the palm of your hand. Small handling sessions of around 10 minutes should tame the lizard slightly. Always support the whole body.

