



Electric Blue Day Geckos

Lygodactylus williamsi

INTERMEDIATE · 2.5–3 IN ADULT · 5–10 YR LIFESPAN · DIURNAL · CITES APPENDIX I · TANZANIA

Few animals in the hobby stop traffic like a male *Lygodactylus williamsi*: a three-inch gecko in a blue you would swear was painted on. Females are a quieter brown-green. Both are fast, wired and awake all day. The honest headline isn't the color; it's the paperwork. This gecko is critically endangered in the wild and CITES Appendix I listed, so captive-bred is the only acceptable source.

AT A GLANCE	
Difficulty	Intermediate
Adult size	2.5–3 inches
Lifespan	5–10 years
Ambient temp	78–85 °F day, 72–76 °F night
Basking spot	90–95 °F
Humidity	60–80%
UVB	Required, year-round
Diet	Small insects, fruit puree
Feeding	Every 1–2 days



Captive-bred *Lygodactylus williamsi* turn up at NARBC in small numbers. Ask about lineage and paperwork before you ask about price.

Photo: kuhnmi / iNaturalist · CC BY

01

Look, Don't Handle

Set expectations now: this is a display animal, and a conservation-sensitive one. Buy only captive-bred, from a keeper who can name the line. CITES Appendix I is a legal listing, not a formality. A three-inch gecko that moves like a struck match is no lap pet, and handling stresses it badly. The other hard rule is social: **keep them one to an enclosure**. Two males will fight until one is dead, females wear each other down, and a male will run a female ragged.

02

Housing by Life Stage

Vertical, always. Every stage in the table below is taller than it is wide, because this gecko lives on stems and trunks and uses the top third of the box. An adult wants 18×18×24 with 12×12×18 as the floor. Racks and tubs are wrong at every size. A full screen top dumps humidity, so pick a glass or PVC enclosure with a mesh section rather than an all-mesh lid. Check every seam and vent: a hatchling fits through gaps you cannot see.

STAGE	MINIMUM	PREFERRED	NOTES
Hatchling	6×6×8	8×8×12	Tiny at hatching; flightless fruit flies and pinhead crickets only.
Juvenile	8×8×12	12×12×18	UVB from day one; planted bamboo structure to climb and hide in.
Subadult	12×12×18	12×12×18	Sexes obvious now: males vivid blue, females brownish-green.
Adult	12×12×18	18×18×24	Bamboo bioactive is the target. Captive-bred stock only, no exceptions.

Habitat-OS life-stage guidance, in inches (width × depth × height). Vertical at every stage; racks and tubs never suit this gecko.

03

Heat, Light & UVB

Run the enclosure at 78–85 °F ambient with a basking spot of 90–95 °F near the top, and let it fall to 72–76 °F at night. A small halogen flood beats a heat mat for a climbing animal; heat rocks have no place here. UVB is not optional for a gecko awake and basking all day. It does not pass through glass or plastic at all, and mesh costs you a quarter to a half of it, so the lamp sits above the mesh section. Replace it on the maker's schedule and leave shade the gecko can retreat into.

04

Humidity & Water

Keep humidity inside the 60–80% band, letting it rise and fall rather than sitting soaked. Mist heavily in the morning and again in the evening, with a genuine drying period between. These geckos drink droplets off leaves and glass, not from a standing bowl, so mist until the plants bead. Live plants and a deep organic substrate buffer the rest. Ventilation matters as much as the misting: stale, permanently wet air is what does the damage.

05

Bamboo, Plants and Cover

Bamboo is the whole design brief. Vertical canes, cork tubes and broad-leaved plants (pothos, bromeliads, small ficus) give a gecko this size the perches and sight breaks it needs. Skip loose sand entirely; a bioactive mix of soil, leaf litter and springtails suits the humidity and cleans up after itself. Clutter the top half heavily. A williamsi with nowhere to duck out of view will sit in one corner and stop eating.

06

Feeding: Bugs and Sugar

Feed every 1–2 days, more often than most geckos and the part keepers underestimate. The mouth is tiny, so prey must be too: flightless fruit flies, pinhead crickets, bean beetles and the smallest roach nymphs. Dust most feedings with plain calcium, no D3 and no phosphorus. A D3 multivitamin goes on weekly while growing, twice a month for adults. Leave a dish of plain calcium out for laying females. The other half is sweet: fruit puree or a prepared day gecko diet, pulled before it ferments.

07

Health Red Flags

Watch the grip. A gecko that can't hold the glass, or shows tremors, a soft or bent jaw, or bowed limbs, is telling you the calcium and UVB side of the setup has failed. Check the toes and tail tip after every shed; a ring of stuck skin will cost a digit. Sunken flanks and a hip line you can count are weight loss, which moves fast in an animal this small. Any of it means a reptile vet who sees geckos, this week, not next month.

Husbandry data: Habitat-OS species library. Structure follows the NARBC show handout series. Every animal is an individual — when in doubt, ask the breeder at the table or a reptile veterinarian.