

Recommended Annual Husbandry Schedule

Gallotia galloti eisentrauti - Northern Tenerife lizard

Identity and range

Northern Tenerife subspecies of *Gallotia galloti*. Its native range includes the Anaga Peninsula, La Laguna plateau and the north coast west toward Garachico, plus nearby Roque de Garachico and Roque Dentro de Anaga. The type locality is Bajamar on the Anaga Peninsula.

Climate and seasonality

Northern Tenerife is cooler and wetter than the south. Tenerife Norte Airport normals at 632 m average about 13 C in January and 21 C in August. Rainfall is strongly winter-biased: about 70-82 mm/month in November-February versus only about 5-11 mm in June-August, while RH remains roughly 69-79%.

Diet and reproduction

Omnivorous with a strong plant component. Tenerife diet studies show adults are usually plant-dominant in spring-autumn, especially fruits, flowers, leaves and stems, with relatively more invertebrates in winter. Seven-year captive data for *eisentrauti* show 1-2 clutches annually from early May to late August.

MONTH	DAY AMBIENT	NIGHT	BASKING	UVI*	PHOTO	RH DAY / NIGHT*	SPRAY / RAIN	FOOD*	STATUS / BREEDING
January	17-20 C	10-13 C	28-31 C	2-3	10 h 35 m	65-75 / 75-85%	Light rain/mist 2-3x/wk	2-3	Cool winter rest
February	18-21 C	10-13 C	29-32 C	2-3	11 h	65-75 / 75-85%	Light rain/mist 2-3x/wk	2-3	Winter rest / conditioning
March	20-23 C	11-14 C	32-35 C	3	11 h 45 m	60-70 / 70-80%	Rain/mist 2x/wk	3-4	Warm-up / courtship
April	21-25 C	12-15 C	35-38 C	3-4	12 h 40 m	60-70 / 70-80%	Light rain/mist 1-2x/wk	4	Courtship / mating
May	23-27 C	14-17 C	38-41 C	4	13 h 25 m	55-65 / 65-75%	Light mist 1-2x/wk	4-5	Mating / first oviposition
June	24-28 C	15-18 C	40-42 C	4-5	13 h 55 m	55-65 / 65-75%	Light mist 1x/wk	4-5	Laying / incubation
July	25-29 C	16-19 C	41-43 C	4-5	13 h 45 m	50-60 / 60-70%	Minimal; water always	4-5	Laying / second clutch possible
August	25-29 C	16-19 C	41-43 C	4-5	13 h 10 m	50-60 / 60-70%	Minimal; water always	4	Late laying / hatching
September	24-28 C	16-19 C	39-42 C	4	12 h 20 m	55-65 / 65-75%	Light mist 1x/wk	4	Hatching / recovery
October	22-26 C	14-17 C	36-39 C	3-4	11 h 25 m	60-70 / 70-80%	Rain/mist 1-2x/wk	3-4	Autumn taper
November	19-23 C	12-15 C	32-35 C	3	10 h 45 m	65-75 / 75-85%	Rain/mist 2-3x/wk	3	Cooling / reduced activity
December	17-20 C	10-13 C	28-31 C	2-3	10 h 25 m	65-80 / 75-88%	Rain/mist 2-3x/wk	2-3	Cool winter rest

Calendar: Tenerife and the Netherlands are both in the Northern Hemisphere, so the native seasonal sequence is retained. Winter cooling is mild and seasonal, not deep brumation.

* RH, UVI and spray values are captive working targets based on northern Tenerife climate plus long-term *Gallotia* husbandry. Keep good airflow; higher winter RH must not mean continuously wet substrate.

Northern-form distinction: compared with the nominate southern Tenerife form, *eisentrauti* should receive a cooler, more humid autumn/winter cycle and a less intensely xeric summer.

Practical Husbandry and Daily Management

Robust omnivorous lacertid husbandry: strong basking gradient, moderate-high UVB, deep burrows, winter moisture and dry-but-not-desiccating summers.

Enclosure and structure

For one adult, about 140 x 70 x 70 cm or larger is a practical starting point; breeding pairs benefit from 160 x 80 x 80 cm or more. Provide stable rock slabs, broad basking shelves, low branches, cork/rock crevices and deep soil for self-dug retreats. Secure heavy rock from the enclosure base, not on loose substrate.

Heat, gradient and UVB

Use a strong local basking surface while keeping the air gradient broad. Summer basking around 40-43 C is appropriate, with shaded retreats around the mid-20s C. Winter basking can fall to about 28-32 C. A measured active-season UVI around 4-5 is a practical target, reducing to 2-3 during winter cooling.

Humidity and rainfall

Northern Tenerife remains moderately humid year-round, but rainfall changes sharply. Increase localized rain/misting from October through March and keep summer exposed surfaces mostly dry. Always retain a slightly humid retreat or deep burrow zone and constant drinking water.

Nest provision

Provide 25-35 cm or more of diggable soil/sand mix by April, with a lightly moist lower layer. Keep the nest option available through August because females can produce one or two clutches. Test-digging and repeated site inspection commonly precede laying.

Adult diet

Use a plant-rich omnivorous diet: edible weeds, leafy greens, flowers, browse and varied fruit in controlled amounts, supplemented with invertebrates. Tenerife studies show substantial seasonal frugivory and plant use. Insects can form a larger fraction during winter or periods of reduced fruit availability.

Juvenile diet

Juveniles should receive a higher invertebrate proportion than adults, with small gut-loaded crickets, roaches and other prey offered frequently. Present greens, flowers and fruit from the beginning so the diet can shift gradually toward adult omnivory with strong plant use.

Social management

Adult males can be territorial and courtship can involve forceful neck-biting. Use multiple basking and feeding stations and visual barriers. Breeding pairs may coexist successfully in large enclosures, but separate immediately for persistent pursuit, bites, refuge exclusion or declining body condition.

Daily keeper checks

Check activity, posture, gait, toes/claws, eyes/nose, mouth, tail, feces, hydration and body mass. During winter cooling confirm that animals are alert when basking and continue drinking. During breeding, monitor female mass, abdominal contour, digging and calcium intake.

Breeding, Eggs and Evidence Notes

This subspecies has unusually strong captive breeding data: clutch timing, clutch size and incubation duration were followed across eight pairs for seven years.

Breeding season

In a seven-year captive dataset involving eight pairs, females laid between the beginning of May and the end of August. Courtship and mating should therefore build from March-April, with first laying expected from May onward. Other captive breeders report mating beginning rapidly after winter rest ends.

Clutch size

First clutches averaged 4.7 eggs with a range of 2-9. Second annual clutches averaged 3.4 eggs with a range of 2-6. Females produced one or two clutches per year. An additional breeder reported repeated five-egg clutches in successive years.

Incubation

The seven-year study reported a mean incubation of 73 days with a range of 62-89 days. A modern breeder incubated at a constant 26 C on moist vermiculite and obtained hatchlings after 62 days. Mean egg size was reported around 19.3 x 12.8 mm.

Winter conditioning

Experienced breeders use a distinct winter rest before pairing. One successful program began winter rest in late September and ended it around Christmas, with mating observed within three weeks afterward. This demonstrates that a clear seasonal reduction can be useful, although exact timing can be adapted to the collection.

Evidence confidence

Subspecies range - High

Anaga, La Laguna plateau and northern Tenerife west toward Garachico.

North-Tenerife climate - High

AEMET Tenerife Norte 1981-2010 normals at 632 m.

Plant-rich omnivory - High

Multiple Tenerife diet studies; strong plant dominance outside winter.

May-Aug laying - High

Eight pairs followed for seven years.

1-2 clutches/year - High

Direct long-term captive breeding dataset.

Clutch size - High

First 4.7 eggs (2-9); second 3.4 eggs (2-6).

Incubation 62-89 d - High

Direct seven-year captive breeding result.

26 C incubation - Moderate-high

Successful modern captive result consistent with the published range.

RH / UVI targets - Moderate

Captive working translation of climate and lacertid husbandry.

Key references

1. Bischoff (1982): description and northern Tenerife distribution of *G. g. eisentrauti*. 2. AEMET Tenerife Norte Aeropuerto 1981-2010 climate normals: temperature, rainfall and RH. 3. Bannert (1998), *Salamandra*: eight pairs over seven years; May-August laying, 1-2 clutches, clutch sizes and 62-89 d incubation. 4. Rodríguez et al. (2008) and Lopez-Darias et al. (2015): Tenerife *Gallotia* diet, frugivory and plant dominance. 5. Recent long-term breeder report: 26 C incubation and seasonal winter-rest breeding response.

UVI beneath the optional T5 tube

Gallotia galloti eisenrauti

Your measuring point

Measure UVI at normal back height directly beneath the brightest accessible part of the optional T5 strip. Place the strip toward the middle/back with free access to and away from it; preserve a gradient into fully covered refuges near UVI 0. These numbers describe the exposure area, not the whole enclosure or a daily average.

Measure and adjust

- 1. Use a UV Index meter.** A Solarmeter 6.5/6.5R or equivalent UVI meter is suitable. Broadband UVB readings in microwatts/cm2 cannot be substituted for UVI.
- 2. Measure the installed arrangement.** Warm the tube for about 30 minutes. Keep the reflector, guards and mesh in their normal positions. With the animal elsewhere, hold the sensor at its normal back height, aimed toward the tube.
- 3. Adjust the fixture.** Begin near the lower part of a newly selected working range and adjust gradually. Respect the lamp manufacturer's minimum distance. Recheck after each change and check every higher accessible branch, rock or platform.
- 4. Keep a full gradient.** Provide usable exposure across the animal's body, lower-UVI areas and fully covered refuges near UVI 0. For daytime baskers, overlap the UV area with visible light and appropriate basking warmth while retaining cooler shade.
- 5. Record and recheck.** Log UVI, measuring point, tube-to-back distance, tube age and lamp-on time. Recheck through the year and after changes to the tube, reflector, mesh or furnishings. Exposure duration and behaviour also determine dose.

A T5 range is a working exposure target, not a whole-cage setting, measured wild monthly average, guaranteed optimum or proven safety ceiling. The animal must be able to enter and leave freely.

Monthly target at normal back height

Month	UVI under T5 when on
January	2-3
February	2-3
March	3
April	3-4
May	4
June	4-5
July	4-5
August	4-5
September	4
October	3-4
November	3
December	2-3

Retain numbers; clarify measurement

The retained range remains a provisional captive working target. No new species-specific result was found that clearly requires a numerical change. Retaining it is not certification of an experimentally established optimum.

Evidence level: Provisional retention. The seasonal schedule is a captive operating plan; it is not measured wild monthly UV. Off means the existing planned UVB-off/rest phase is preserved. Any staged Off/1 entry still means gradual reintroduction.

UV references: Baines et al. (2016), UV-Tool; Muryn, Baines and Dishman (2026), Reptile Lighting Guide V10. Full rationale and monthly comparison: [UVI_Audit_Report.html](#).