

Basic Guidelines for Heating Vivaria

Reptiles are Ectotherms, that is they heat themselves and regulate their body temperature by means of the environment. They move in and out of hot and cool areas to maintain their preferred temperature. It is therefore important that the vivarium has a suitable temperature gradient for the reptiles to behave naturally.

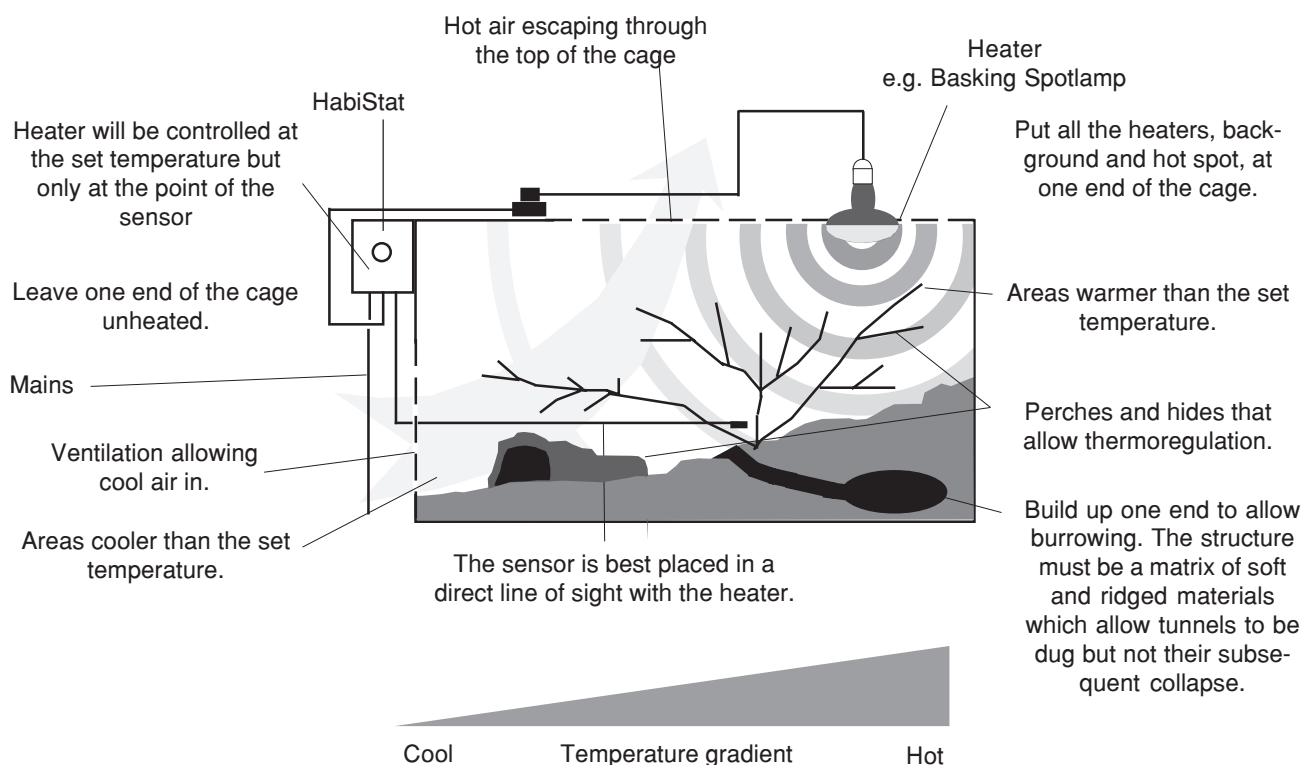
The heater should be placed at one end of the vivarium in a condition that does not heat the whole of the enclosure. In this way the temperature will vary between the hot area near the heater and the cooler areas at ambient temperature. For sophisticated temperature management the thermostat and heater can be fed via a *HabiStat Sun* or *Moon Switch*. This will give day/night and seasonal synchronisation.

Size Matters

Heaters must be large enough to heat the vivarium to the required temperature. An underrated heater will rarely supply enough heat to reach the temperature set on the HabiStat. Too large a heater will supply so much heat that the HabiStat will only supply a very small amount of power. This would lead to poor temperature management and may cause the heater to fail.

More than one heater may be controlled by the HabiStat, providing the total load of 600 watts is not exceeded. The dimming thermostat will not work properly with heaters of 40 watts or less.

The ideal heaters to use with this type of thermostat are lamps. Other heaters may also be controlled but light emitting lamps can only properly be controlled by Dimming thermostats.



Positioning the HabiStat sensor to obtain a thermal gradient.

...Using the HabiStat.

The HabiStat will control the heater at the level set on the dial and detected at the sensor. The function of the remote sensor is to enable selection of the site at which the temperature can be sampled and controlled. The range of the temperature gradient will be proportional to the distance between the sensor and the heater and the ambient temperature. If the HabiStat is set at a temperature on the dial but the sensor is placed away from the heater there will be areas near the heater that are hotter than the set temperature. Similarly, if the sensor is placed near the heater, there

will be areas away from the sensor that are cooler than the set temperature.

It should also be noted that as hot air rises, setting the sensor at the top of a vivarium will only maintain the required temperature at that point. A vivarium that houses ground dwelling animals may be too cool if set up in such a way. Place the sensor where the animals are likely to be, preferably in a direct line of sight to the heater.

Some criteria for controlling the temperature are:

- Ensure that the placement of the sensor is representative of the temperature required,

use common sense in choosing the position.

- Remember that the HabiStat will be most accurate in the middle of its range. Try to use this, rather than the extremes, to maintain accurate control of temperature.
- Although the dial is accurate the temperature should always be checked with a thermometer.

...Dimming Control

A dimming thermostat uses a very accurate method of temperature control. Like the name suggests, power is fed to the heater in a continuously variable amount.

This is proportional to the power required. The 'Heat' neon will reflect this by glowing brighter and dimmer relative to the amount of energy being used.

The heater is rarely switched either fully on or completely off and is therefore kept warm, rather than alternately hot and cold. This extends the life of the equipment as neither electrical or thermal extremes are common.

...Finally

It is important to remember that temperature control is critical to the successful keeping of reptiles. HabiStat thermostats use hi-tec sophistication to give precise control and peace of mind.

Herp ShopTM
 Distributed throughout Australian
 Territories by Herp Shop
 www.herpshop.com.au

HabiStat

THERMOSTATS

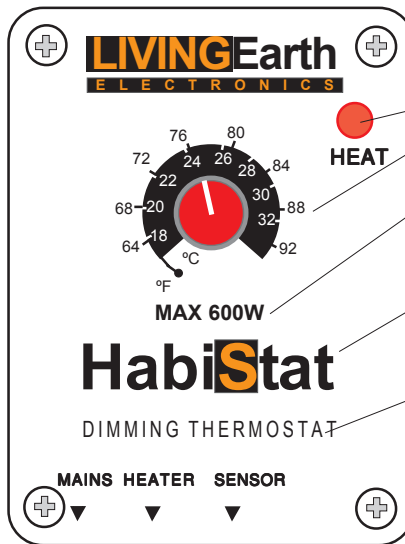
Herp Shop
 16 Suspension Street
 Ardeer, Victoria, Australia 3022
 TEL: 0061(0)3 9363 6841
 E-MAIL: sales@herpshop.com.au

Guarantee

Thank you for buying this HabiStat electronic thermostat. Used in accordance with the instructions this unit will give many years service. There are no user serviceable parts in this unit, so **please do not open it**. Any tampering including the cutting of any wire, will render the guarantee void. This thermostat is guaranteed for one year from the date of purchase against faulty parts and workmanship. In the unlikely event of failure, return it to our distributor, Herp Shop, with a **receipt or proof of purchase** and details of the fault. Herp Shop will ensure your unit is returned to full working order. No liability is accepted other than for the repair or replacement of a faulty product. Statutory rights are not affected



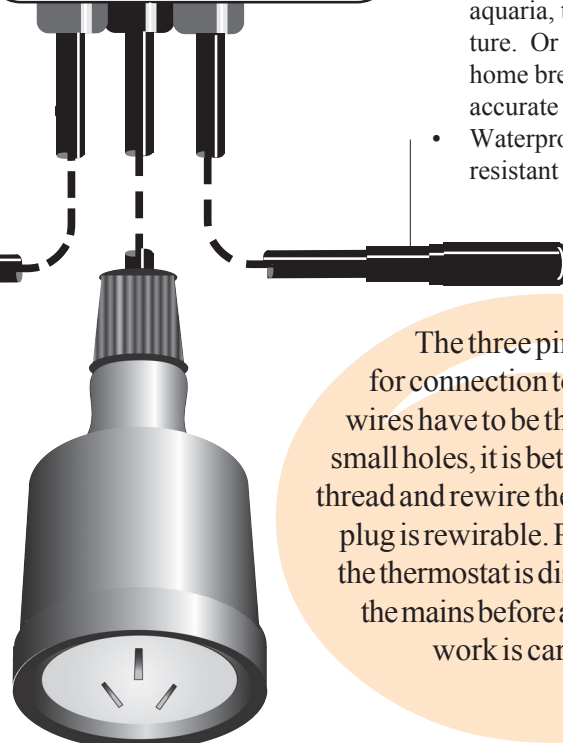
All three leads are supplied at a useful length. This allows for the maximum flexibility. As the leads must not be cut, they can be tidied with cable ties and this will accommodate any extra wire. The long wires mean virtually any cage can enjoy the benefits of HabiStat control. This brings unparalleled choice, convenience and safety.



- Neon lights when heater is on.
- Temperature dial calibrated in Fahrenheit and Celsius.
- A heater load of between 40 and 600 watts at 230 volts, 50 Hz AC.
- A fully specified *HabiStat* thermostat that meets all current standards.
- An electronic thermostat that gradually increases and decreases power and is especially suitable for use with light bulbs.
- Suitable for use in vivaria, aquaria, terraria, and horticulture. Or in photography and home brewing where very accurate control is required.
- Waterproof, chemically resistant probe



The fitted three pin plug is for connection to the domestic mains. It is recommended that the circuit be protected with a three amp fuse.



The three pin socket is for connection to the heater. If wires have to be threaded through small holes, it is better to disconnect, thread and rewire the heater lead, if the plug is rewirable. Please make sure the thermostat is disconnected from the mains before any installation work is carried out.