



HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™ Basics

Using the HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™

- To provide a light free, basking hotspot
- Provide background heat for a medium to large vivarium
- Heat a kennel, cattery or bird brooder
- Heat a hospital or convalescent area
- Mount above a door or window to eliminate cold draughts
- Use as a hot plate for keeping food and other items hot



How to mount the HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™

- The best place to put the HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™ is on the inside of the roof. Here, the heater can radiate heat into the cage either specifically as a hot spot or more generally as background heat.
- The HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™ must not be floor mounted, either inside or outside the cage.
- Put the HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™ as far to one end of the cage as possible. This will ensure a hot and a cold end for the animals to move in and out of. To prevent the whole cage heating up to one overall temperature, a HabiStat™ thermostat should be used. A thermostat will also provide an added protection against overheating.
- Check the temperatures inside the cage before putting any animals in. Look for highs and lows in different parts of the cage and at different times of the day. Once inside the cage, an animal cannot escape, so it should not be exposed to too high or too low temperatures

Reptile Radiators are new higher powered heaters from HabiStat. They replace the *Power Plate* and while they maintain the advantages of the old heater, substantial technical improvements have been added.

Purpose designed as an animal heater, the *HabiStat Reptile Radiator* will not harm animals, people or fittings if mounted properly. It is specifically designed to direct most of its heat out through the lower, radiating face. Protective insulation minimises the heating of the upper, mounting site. At the same time, even the hottest surface, that which heats the cage, is not so hot that it will instantly burn animals or humans.

Carbon element heater construction gives incredible reliability. This is the same technology that powers *HabiStat Heat Mats*.

This hot new heater creates an *Optimal Heat Density* - 75 watts of heat spread over 650 cm³.

Guarantee. Like all HabiStat products, a manufacturers guarantee extends the users statutory rights and covers defects in parts and labour for a twelve month period.

Directional Heater. Most of the heat generated is directed out from the lower surface. The edges and upper surface run at significantly cooler temperatures. It is therefore, safer and very economical to run.

Shallow profile - Makes mounting on the roof of the enclosure unobtrusive and easy to blend in with any decor scheme.



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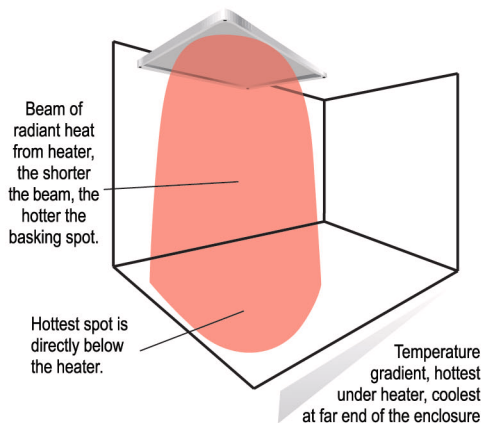
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HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™ Basics

Introduction

The *HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™* radiates a form of heat, ultra long wave infrared, which is especially suitable for heating the environment as it mimics the sun. It is good at penetrating objects and the degree of penetration depends on how dense they are. Air, for example, is not dense at all, so the heat passes through without imparting much of its warmth. Glass and plastic, likewise, offer little resistance, so most of the heat passes through. More dense objects, like living things and rocks, stop the energy by absorbing the heat and consequently warm up. Some of the heat is reflected and even more is reradiated by objects that have already warmed up. This secondary heat is of a much shorter wavelength infrared and is responsible for the general warming of the environment.

To be of maximum use, the heater should be positioned towards one end of the cage. Here it can build up higher local temperatures which will dissipate to other parts of the enclosure. In doing so a temperature gradient is established. This suits most species best as they can adjust their body temperature by moving in and out of the hottest area to warm up quickly and then fine tune by using the gradually cooler areas.



Installation Guide

(1) Position the *HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™* on the underside of the roof where it can radiate heat into the body of the cage.

Reptile Radiator™, the location for the four fixing screws.



Screwing a *HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™* to the underside of the roof



Make small starter holes with an appropriate drill or bradawl at the marked points.

Offer up the screws through the *HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™* into the starter holes and screw down evenly.

(2) Where there is a wire mesh panel in the roof, the *HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™* can be positioned on this to direct its heat through. The area of the mesh panel should be larger than the *HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™* and it should be constructed so that it will not collapse under the weight or influence of the heater. This means it must resist any local warming caused by the heater running in close proximity.

Connect the *HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™* to the mains via a thermostat and allow it to heat up and run at full power for 24 hours before putting animals into the cage.

The electrical supply cord cannot be replaced and if it becomes damaged, it can only be shortened to remove the defective portion and the plug reattached. If this procedure makes the lead too short, the whole heater should be scrapped.

The *HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™* is best controlled with a *HabiStat™* thermostat. Connect the heater to the thermostat outside the cage. The heater plug is rewirable by any competent person but if there is any doubt, a qualified electrician should be consulted.

During the first few hours of use there may be a slight smell from the heater. This is quite normal and these harmless fumes should be allowed to vent away.

Cautions

Some cautions are to be considered when installing heaters like the *HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™*. The major concern is not to trap the heat within the heater so that it causes damage. Termed thermal blocking, this occurs when something, usually a layer of insulation prevents the heat generated by the heater from escaping. Insulation is acceptable, even desirable, if it is limited to the rear side only. Should the front be blocked, then damage may result.

It is quite possible that these heaters will be used where water or high humidity are present. They are safe if they are not immersed in water or subjected to prolonged and excessive humidity or misting. The heaters may, however, be cleaned by wiping with a damp cloth as they are sealed against occasional dampness.

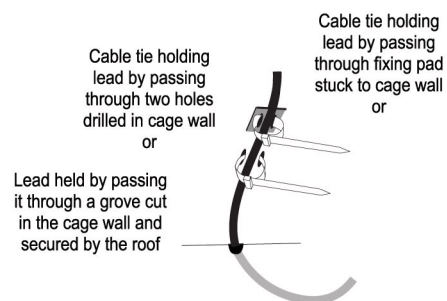
A final electrical caution concerns the lead and plug. The *HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™* are supplied with a fitted plug with a 3 amp. fuse. Ideally this should not be interfered with and is yet another reason for mounting the heater outside the cage. If the wire has to be threaded through a hole, to ex-

it the cage for example, the plug must be reattached correctly. Consult a qualified electrician if at all in doubt.

The fuse must be replaced with a similar 3 amp. device if it blows. If the fuse does blow, extreme caution is needed before it is replaced. The heater is not repairable and a blown fuse sometimes means that it is no longer serviceable and should be discarded.

Secure the lead

The lead from the heater should be secured if it is mounted within the cage. This can be done with cable ties. A suitable adhesive-backed mount can be stuck to the cage adja-



Fixing the lead from a heater mounted inside a vivarium

cent to the heater and the tie threaded through this. Alternatively two holes just large enough to allow the tie through may be drilled either side of the lead, again just next to where the cable joins the heater. The external point of exit should also be fixed. The most convenient method is to clamp the cable at the junction of, say roof and wall. A small groove is cut in the wall perhaps, along which the cable lies. The roof is then used to hold the cable using the strength of the fixtures holding the roof and wall together.

Heating Matters

HabiStat™ Reptile Radiator™ can be used either as hotspot or background heaters.

Fortunately, most of the species commonly kept as pets only require the gentle warmth these heaters are designed to produce. It is also understood that the cage should not be placed in an unusual location. A comfortable background domestic temperature is assumed.

A direct beam of 25cm will heat a hot spot to about 40°C. At a greater distance of say, 50cm, the heater would heat a medium sized vivarium to an overall temperature of about 28°C. In a cold room it may struggle to do this; while in hot conditions the chances of overheating exist.

To prevent overheating, the use of a thermostat like a *HabiStat™* is always recommended.