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.

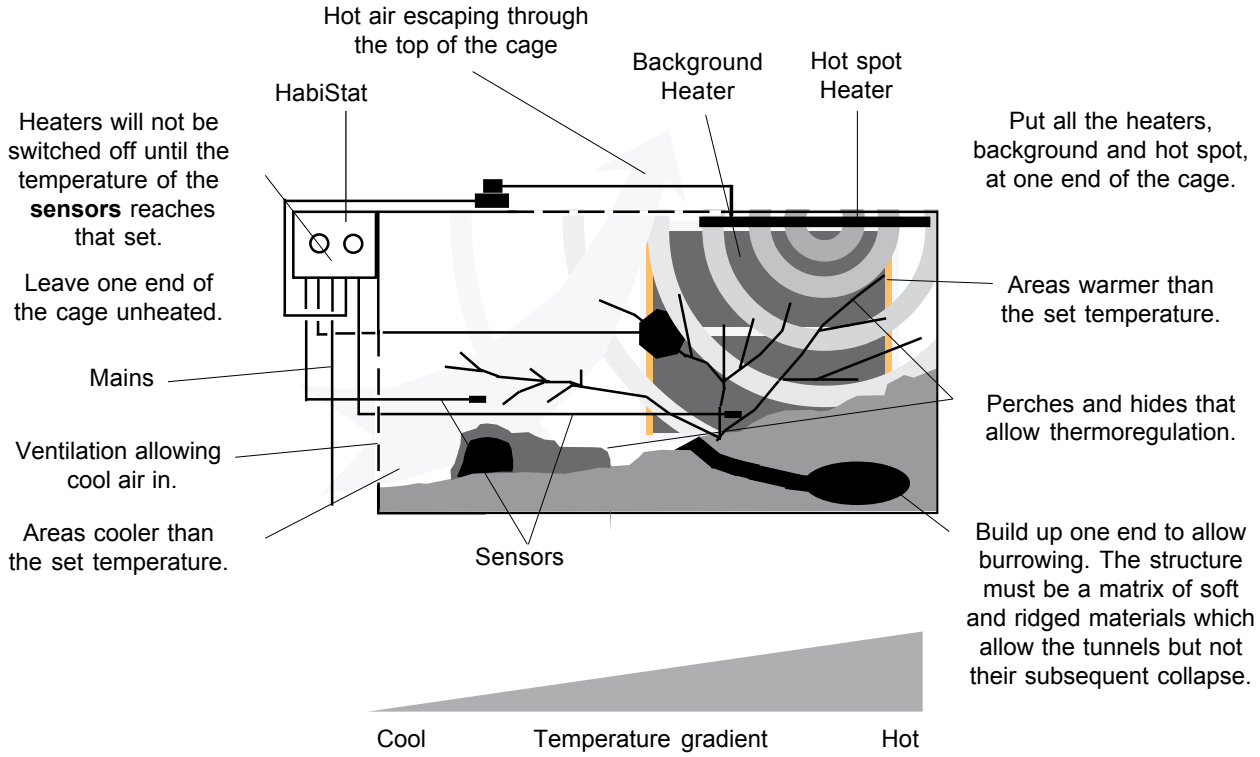
The heater should be placed at one end of the vivarium in a condition that does not heat the whole of the enclosure. In this way the temperature will vary between the hot area near the heater and the cooler areas at ambient temperature. For sophisticated temperature management the thermostat and heater 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 is continually switching it off. This would lead to poor temperature management and may cause the heater to fail.

More than one heater may be controlled by either of the channels providing the total load of 300 watts on each one is not exceeded.

The ideal heaters to use with this type of thermostat are HabiStat Heat Mats and Strips. Other heaters may also be controlled but light emmiting lamps should be avoided. The best thermostat for this type of device is the *HabiStat Dimming Thermostat.*



Positioning the HabiStat sensors 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! 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.

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.

LIVING Earth ELECTRONICS
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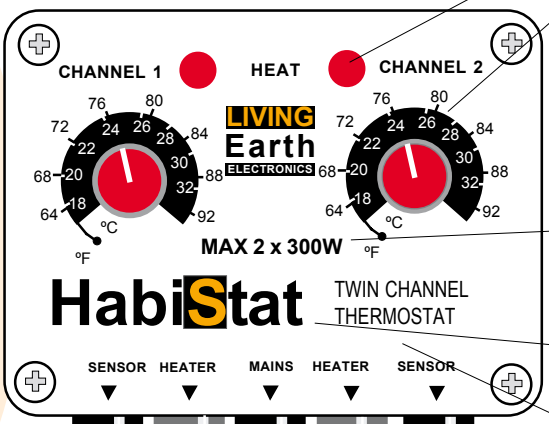
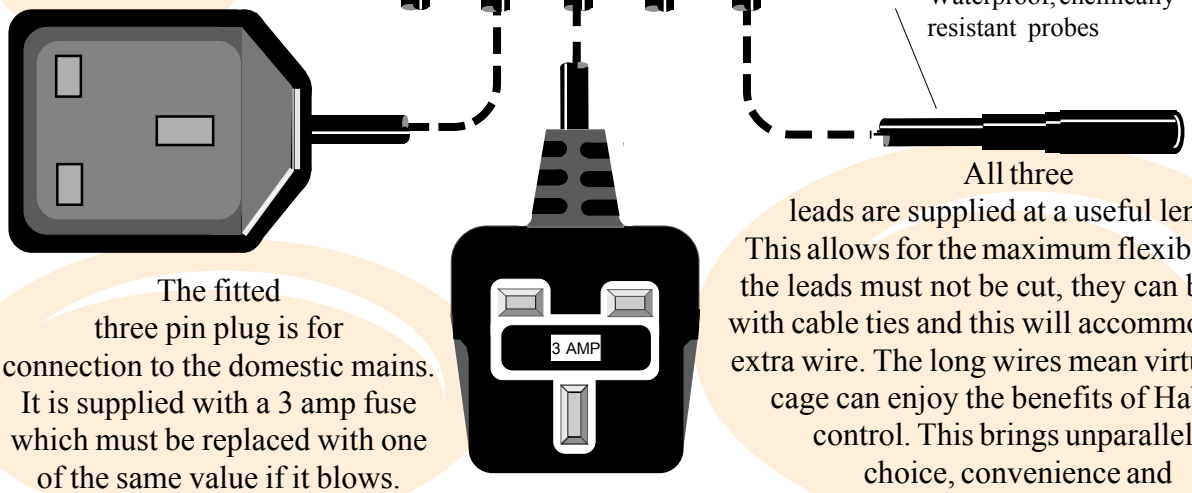
Guarantee

Thank you for buying this HabiStat electronic thermostat. Used in accordance with these 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 cutting any wire, will render the guarantee void. This thermostat is guaranteed for five years from the date of purchase against faulty parts and workmanship. In the unlikely event of failure, return it to Living Earth Electronics and ensure a ***receipt or proof of purchase*** and details of the fault are included. We will aim to return the repaired or replaced unit in the post within one working day. If returned within one year of purchase there will be no charge but after that time a small administration and postage fee of five pounds (£5.00) will be levied. Please send a Postal Order or Credit Card details in favour of Euro Rep Ltd. to cover this. No liability is accepted other than for the repair or replacement of a faulty product. Statutory rights are not affected.

The three pin sockets are for connection to the heaters. If wires have to be threaded through small holes, it is better to disconnect, thread and rewire the heater leads, if the plugs are rewirable. Please make sure the thermostat is disconected from the mains before any installation work is carried out.



- Neons light when heaters are on.
- Temperature dials calibrated in Fahrenheit and Celsius
- Suitable for use in vivaria, aquaria, terraria and horticulture. Especially suitable for use with *HabiStat Heat Mats & Strips*.
- A maximum heater load of 2 x 300 watts at 230 volts, 50 Hz AC.
- A fully specified HabiStat thermostat that meets all current standards.
- Two electronic thermostats that turn the power on and off but are *not* suitable for use with light bulbs.
- Waterproof, chemically resistant probes



The fitted three pin plug is for connection to the domestic mains. It is supplied with a 3 amp fuse which must be replaced with one of the same value if it blows.

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.