



Jungle Fever Care Sheet

Blue Tongue Skink (Tiliqua scincoides)

This care sheet has been developed by the proprietor through research and personal experience. It is intended to provide information on initial set

up and the care that your pet will require. For more in depth advice and information please do not hesitate to discuss your pet further with the staff of Jungle Fever or purchase a specific species book available at Jungle Fever.

COMMON NAME: Blue Tongue Skink

NATIVE: They can be found living in open woodlands, at the margins of forests and semi-deserts in Australia, Tasmania and New Guinea.

SIZE: Adults reach lengths of 50cm (20in) from head to tip of the tail.

LIFE SPAN: 20 Years.

ENCLOSURES: The research has shown that the Blue Tongue Skinks should not be housed together.

SIZE: The absolute minimum sized tank would be a 36inch length by eighteen inch wide vivarium. Remember bigger is better. Ideally an enclosure of 36 x 36 x 12 – 15 in height would give the skink plenty of floor space to move around. The blue tongue skink will grow incredibly fast so make sure you have an adequate size enclosure from the beginning otherwise you will spend more money a few months later to upgrade the enclosure.

UV LIGHTING: The use of a 5% UV light should be provided. Although some people say these skinks do not need this, they would benefit from it.

HEAT: Blue tongued skins require a wide ranged temperature gradient consisting of a hot side, a cool side and a middle range in between. Regular daytime temperatures on the cool end can be anywhere from the low 70`s to the low 80 degree range, and the basking end consistent at 95 – 100 degrees. Use a heat mat and thermostatically controlled spotlight on one side of the enclosure. Do not use heat rocks as they can burn the skinks belly.

HUMIDITY: We recommend anywhere between 25 & 40%. If it's too dry in your terrarium, your skinks scales will begin to look and feel very dry. If the belly of the skink is rough and dry, the humidity needs to increase.

THERMOMETERS: Thermometers and hydrometers are crucial to maintain the correct temperature and humidity levels within the enclosure.

SUBSTRATE: You should provide a dry woodland type enclosure with bark for the flooring.

CAGE FURNISHINGS: Cork bark and other hides should be provided with some artificial plants. A basking rock is required under the basking spot light.

SANITARY MEASURES: Sanitary measures are important for your pet's health and well being. Faecal matter will need to be cleared on a daily basis and clean substrate added as required. Clean the tank weekly with an appropriate cage cleaner made safe for reptile use.

Clean furnishings weekly by soaking in hot water and rinsing thoroughly before placing back into the enclosure.

Sanitary measures are also important for your health. Always wash your hands with a good antibacterial soap after you have finished cleaning and always wash hands between enclosures of other animals.

DIET: Baby and juveniles are best fed small amounts every day. Adults can easily become obese and better to feed every other day. Blue tongue skinks are omnivores, meaning they eat both plant and animal matter. Its best to place the foods in a dish, this helps keep the enclosure clean, but the blue tongue skinks like to actively search for their food. Offer your adult skink a variety of fresh food every other day. Younger skinks should be offered food ad lib, meaning however much they will eat, this will reduce as they grow. Any un-eaten food should be removed within 24hrs especially meat.

There is a variety of foods the blue tongued skink can eat:

Mealworms, crickets, locusts, mouse pinkies and fluffs (adults only), dog and cat meat (small amounts and good quality products such as IAMS) and boiled eggs, mango, bananas, cherries, blueberries, peach, nectarines, pear, carrot, mustard and dandelion

SUPPLEMENTS: A calcium and multi vitamin three times a week dusted on live foods.

WATER: A large water bowl situated inside the vivarium will provide adequate humidity. This will need to be cleaned and fresh water added as the skink may defecate in it.

HEALTH: Too much misting or drenching of the substrate can increase the production of bacteria and lead to scale rot. Before a shed occurs, your skinks coloration may turn incredibly bland and dull. This is completely normal. After the shed, your skinks skin is renewed with a fresh, healthy, smooth and often very shiny finish. Your skinks appetite may fluctuate

during this time as well. One concrete clue to a forthcoming shed is a complete milky/cloudy color transformation especially on the underside of your skink. Remember to make sure no scale residue is left on the toes! Also use caution while “helping” in a shed. A blue tongue’s toes are extremely fragile. Note that the bottom of the foot is a soft squishy pad. It does not comprise of scales, but more a leathery bumpy skin. Any concerns, please contact your nearest reptile vet.