



All About the

Blue Tongued Skink

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The Blue Tongued Skink

About the Blue Tongued Skink

The Blue Tongued Skink belongs to the subspecies of *Tiliqua scincoides*. They are relatively docile and gentle, as well as quite easily tamed and handled and therefore can make good pets.

Average Length	20 inches	Characteristics	Like to hide, has a blue tongue
Average Lifespan	5 years	Special Needs	Heat lamp, humidity control
Coloring	Browns with various markings	Health Concerns	No particular problems



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Blue Tongued Skink Characteristics

Blue Tongued Skinks average 20 inches from snout to the tip of the tail when full grown. They are omnivores, meaning they eat both insects and plant matter. Blue Tongued Skinks prefer to live alone and they love to burrow in their bedding.

Selecting Your Blue Tongued Skink

Select a Blue Tongued Skink that is responsive when handled. Consider not only the overall look of the reptile, but also its current living conditions; this will give you an indication of how well it is currently being cared for. Don't hesitate to ask the pet shop owner to throw a live cricket in with any Skink that you are considering; if it immediately goes after the cricket, it might be the one for you. Be sure to only select a Blue Tongued Skink from a pet shop or breeder in which all animals appear to be healthy and well cared for.

Some things to look for:

- curious, active behavior
- clear, alert eyes
- muscular tail
- bright and clear eyes
- clean and dry nose



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Selecting Your Blue Tongued Skink's Habitat

When selecting your reptile's habitat, it is important to consider several things such as what type and size is appropriate, as well as substrate, temperature, light, furniture, and what type of feeding accommodations are necessary.

Type and Size of Your Blue Tongued Skink's Habitat

A 40-gallon or larger glass terrarium with a screen lid is an optimal initial set-up for your Skink. Skinks enjoy hiding, so providing artificial wood or rock hiding areas lined with moist moss will make them quite happy. Line the floor with three to six inches of bark bedding or calcium sand. Clean out waste weekly and change it completely at least once a month. It is also important to note that skinks like to bathe in their water as well as drink it. They will also defecate in their water, so it is important to change out their water at least once a day.

These snakes do well with a temperature of gradient of 75 to 85 degrees. Make sure one side of the cage is on the warmer end of the spectrum, and the other side is on the cooler end. By doing this, the snake is able to regulate themselves properly. Make sure the tank has adequate ventilation to make sure excess humidity does not build up.

A couple of sturdy hiding spots should be provided for skinks for them to burrow and hide. Cork bark, wood, rocks, PVC pipes, or other hides can be used. Make sure wood pieces or rocks are firmly placed so they will not fall on the lizard. A humidity hide (e.g. a plastic storage box with moss or cypress mulch to holds moisture) will help with sheds.

Habitat Care and Maintenance

Any debris and feces should be removed from the tank on a daily basis. Folded paper towel or newspaper can be placed in the toilet area and removed as soon as it is soiled.

Maintaining a happy and healthy habitat for your snake can be generally easy, as long as you keep up with it. Regularly change your substrate to assure and maintain good health.

Feeding

Blue Tongued Skinks eat live, "gut loaded" crickets, mealworms and superworms or waxworms; insects should be dusted with a calcium supplement twice a week. Juveniles should be fed twice a day while adults need to be fed three to four times a week; you should offer an amount that can be consumed by the end of the day. Skinks also need fruit and vegetables and should be offered one to two teaspoons of fresh kale, collard greens, carrots, squash and fresh berries on a daily basis. Drinking water in a shallow dish should be provided.



You'll need these basics before your Blue Tongued Skink comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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- [Tank Lid](#)
- [Thermometer](#)
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[Moss Bedding](#)

The Blue Tongued Skink Baby

At this stage of your Blue Tongued Skink's life, starting them out properly will ensure that you keep a happy and healthy Blue Tongued Skink for the span of their life. They should be fed crickets or worms twice a day. They also enjoy fruit and vegetables on a regular basis. They will eat fresh kale, greens, carrots, squash and berries.

The Blue Tongued Skink Adult

As your Blue Tongued Skink grows, their needs change. You will want to be sure your adult Blue Tongued Skink has adjusted to its surroundings. Adults should be fed insects three to four times a week with daily greens and veggies. Some stop eating for periods of time, without ill effects. Keep plenty of water around for your Skink so they can re-hydrate themselves.

The Senior Blue Tongued Skink

As you go through the years with your Blue Tongued Skink, you will want to ensure they are comfortable and warm, as well as adhering to a healthy diet. Annual visits to a veterinarian who specializes in reptiles are essential in ensuring that your Blue Tongued Skink stays healthy for years to come.

Medical Considerations

When kept in optimum conditions, the Blue Tongued Skink is a relatively healthy species of reptile. Some things to watch for are runny droppings or red streaks in the droppings for more than two days, lethargic behavior, decreased food and water consumption, weight loss, swollen joints, and discharge from the eyes, nose or mouth.

Necessary Items

When you initially bring your new Skink home, you only need the basics; an aquarium with paper towel or newspaper across the bottom, a basking area and a feeding area and a feeding plan.

As you and your new Skink become accustomed to one another, you will key in on their likes and dislikes; you can then begin adding new things to their habitat and daily routine.



Can't miss gifts for the Blue Tongued Skink owner:

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Items to suit your senior Blue Tongued Skink:

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