



Emerald Tree Skink Care Sheet:

Species Name:

Lamprolepis smaragdina

Adult size:

20-30cm

Lifespan:

7-10 Years

Breeding age:

1 Years



The emerald tree skink (*Lamprolepis smaragdina*) is a strikingly vibrant lizard native to the tropical forests of Southeast Asia and Northern Australia. Recognizable by its brilliant green scales, which provide excellent camouflage among the foliage, this arboreal species is adept at climbing and spends most of its life in trees. Emerald tree skinks are diurnal, actively foraging for insects and small invertebrates during the day. They are known for their agility and swift movements, which help them evade predators. These skinks are also notable for their social behaviour, often seen basking and interacting in small groups. In captivity, they require a spacious, well-planted enclosure to mimic their natural habitat and support their climbing instincts. With proper care, they make fascinating and visually appealing pets, beloved for their dynamic nature and striking appearance.

Enclosure:

Size: A spacious enclosure is essential. For a single skink, a minimum enclosure size of 45x45x60cm is recommended. A larger enclosure can be used for multiple skinks.

Substrate: Use a substrate that retains moisture well, such as coconut coir or cypress mulch. This helps maintain humidity levels.

Temperature:

Basking Area: Provide a basking spot with a temperature of 35°C.

Ambient Temperature: Maintain an ambient temperature in the enclosure between 24-29°C during the day and no lower than 24°C at night.

Humidity:

Maintain a humidity level of 70-100%. This can be achieved by misting the enclosure regularly and providing a shallow water dish.

Lighting:

Use a full-spectrum UVB light of 6-10% to allow proper calcium metabolism. Provide a 12-hour light and 12-hour dark cycle to mimic natural daylight.

Diet:

Emerald Tree Skinks will mainly eat insects. You should provide a varied diet of locusts, worms, and crickets.

Their food should be supplemented 2-3 times a week to ensure that your reptile is getting the appropriate nutrition from their diet.



Behaviour and Enrichment:

Climbing: Provide branches and perches for climbing to mimic their natural behaviour.

Swimming: Create a shallow water dish large enough for the skink to soak and swim.

Hide spots: Include hiding spots within the enclosure to allow the skink to retreat and feel secure.

Handling:

Handle your Emerald Tree Skink gently and regularly to build trust. Support their body when handling to avoid stress or injury.

Health:

Health checks: If you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance, seek professional advice promptly.

Cleanliness: Clean and disinfect the enclosure regularly, removing faeces and uneaten food promptly to maintain a healthy environment.

Remember, understanding and replicating the natural environment of the Emerald Tree Skink is crucial for their well-being. Always conduct further research and consult with experienced reptile keepers or veterinarians for the best care practices.