



Fire Skink Care Sheet

Species Name:

Lepidothyris fernandi

Adult Size:

30-35cm

Lifespan:

15-20 years

Breeding Age:

2 years



Fire skinks, *Lepidothyris fernandi*, are striking reptiles native to West Africa, known for their vibrant reddish-orange coloration. These small, terrestrial lizards belong to the Scincidae family, possessing elongated bodies and short legs adapted for burrowing. Their vivid hues serve as a warning to predators. Fire skinks are primarily diurnal, utilizing their keen sense of smell and sight to hunt prey. To complement their fiery appearance, they can be temperamental, requiring a warm, humid environment with ample hiding spots and a varied diet for optimal care.

Housing:

Enclosure: A 4ft vivarium is ideal for the Fire Skink. The Maxi sizes provide extra depth for a deep layer of substrate, as keen burrowers your Skink will appreciate this.

Substrate: Using a substrate that retains moisture is important for this lizard, ideally a mix of orchid bark and a loose substrate like coconut coir or moss.

Temperature:

Maintain a basking spot temperature of 35°C.

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 26-27°C.

Use a heat source like a basking light and a heat mat for heating.

Night time temperatures can drop to 15-23°C.

Lighting:

Provide a UVB light source (6-12%) for at least 10-12 hours a day to support calcium metabolism and overall health.

Diet:

Feeding: Offer a varied diet of insects. (locusts, crickets, snails, and worms)

Supplements: Dust insects with calcium and vitamin supplements 2-3 times a week.



Humidity and Hydration:

A humidity of 60-70% should be maintained.

Provide a shallow dish for drinking water. Mist the enclosure occasionally to maintain humidity levels and aid in shedding.

Enrichment and Handling:

Place hiding spots, rocks, and branches for climbing to create a stimulating environment.

Provide a secure hide for them to retreat and feel safe.

Handle your Skink gently and regularly to foster trust, but be mindful of their stress levels.

Health Considerations:

Regularly monitor for signs of illness, such as lethargy, changes in appetite, or difficulty shedding.

Quarantine new reptiles before introducing them to existing enclosures.

Remember that the care requirements for Fire Skinks may vary slightly based on individual needs, so observe your reptile's behaviour and make adjustments accordingly. Always prioritize the well-being and health of your pet by providing a well-maintained and enriched environment.