



Blue Tongue Skink Care Sheet

Species Name:

Tiliqua gigas

Adult Size:

50-60cm

Lifespan:

15-20 years

Breeding Age:

1-2 years



Indonesian blue tongue skinks, scientifically known as *Tiliqua gigas*, are fascinating reptile's native to the tropical forests of Indonesia. These robust lizards are renowned for their distinctive blue tongues, which they use as a defensive mechanism to startle predators. Their bodies are adorned with smooth, overlapping scales that vary in colour, often displaying a striking combination of brown, tan, and black bands. Blue tongue skinks are omnivorous, consuming a varied diet of insects, fruits, and vegetables. Known for their docile nature, they make popular pets and are appreciated for their curious and friendly demeanour. Despite their adaptability in captivity, it is crucial to mimic their natural habitat by providing appropriate humidity, temperature, and a balanced diet to ensure their health and well-being.

Housing:

Enclosure: A 4ft vivarium is ideal for your 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 mix that allows the skink to burrow is important. A mix of coir and orchid bark is ideal and mimics their natural environment.

Temperature:

Maintain a basking spot temperature of around 35°C.

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 24-30°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) as well as appropriate fruits and vegetables.

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

Feeding Frequency: Juveniles should be fed daily whilst adults can be fed 2-3 times a week.



Humidity and Hydration:

A humidity of 60-80% should be maintained.

Provide a shallow dish for drinking water which is large enough for them to soak in. 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 Blue Tongue 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.