



Northern Blue Tongue Skink Care Sheet

Species Name:

Tiliqua scincoides intermedia

Adult Size:

50-60cm

Lifespan:

15-20 years

Breeding Age:

1-2 years



Northern blue tongue skinks (*Tiliqua scincoides intermedia*) are robust, ground-dwelling lizards native to northern Australia. Recognisable by their vivid blue tongues and stout bodies. These omnivores have a varied diet, consuming insects, fruits, vegetables, and small animals. Known for their gentle temperament, they are popular pets, requiring moderate care, including a spacious enclosure and proper UV lighting. In the wild, they inhabit diverse environments, from forests to grasslands. Their blue tongues serve as a defence mechanism, deterring predators by appearing toxic or dangerous. Skinks are also noted for their viviparous reproduction, giving birth to live young.

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.