

Blue-Tongued Skink



OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Tiliqua spp.*
- Origin: Australia, New Guinea & Indonesia
- Ease of Care: Intermediate
- Potential Adult Size: 24 to 30 inches
- Life Span: Upwards of 20 years
- Behaviour: Diurnal
- Diet: Omnivorous
- Humidity: 60% to 70%
- Handling: Beginner

TOP TIPS

- ✓ Ensure a fresh bowl of water is always available.
- ✓ Use a substrate that allows for digging and helps maintain the required humidity levels.

HOUSING

A large Vivarium is required for this big lizard species.

The following are suitable for all ages:

- Monkfield Standard Vivarium 48x24x24 inches (DVF4824)
- Monkfield Standard Vivarium 60x24x24 inches (DVF6024)
- Monkfield Standard Vivarium 72x24x24 inches (DVF7224)

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

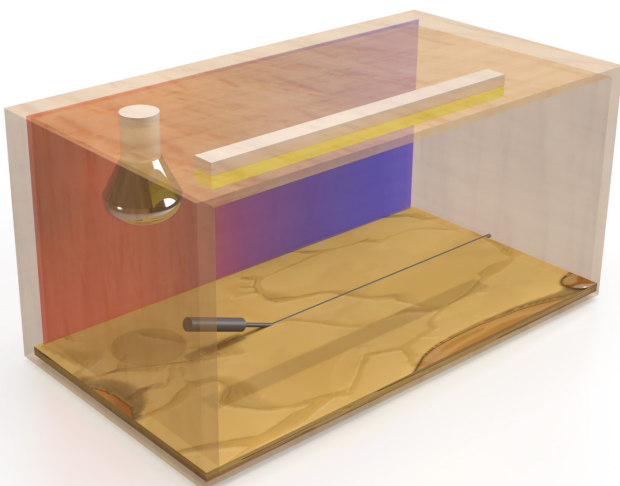


- Housing: Vivarium
- Heating: Heat Bulb
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Jungle Bio or Arcadia EarthMix
- Water: Water Bowl

ENVIRONMENT



Terrestrial Vivarium Setup



Heating

The Blue-Tongued Skink is an ectothermic (cold-blooded) animal and takes all its heat requirements from external sources.

It is also diurnal and required a suitable light and heat gradient in the Vivarium to simulate a complete 24-hour period.

- Background Temp: 23°C-25°C (74°F-77°F)
- HOT Spot: 35°C - 40°C (95°F-104°F), depending on specific species of Skink
- Night-Time Temp: 18°C-23°C (68°F-74°F)

Use the HabiStat 100w heat bulb (HBB100) in the Arcadia Pro Ceramic Lamp Holder & Bracket (RADCHP), mounted on the roof of the Vivarium

approximately 20cms from one side. Run in conjunction with a HabiStat Dimming Thermostat (HTDW).

Dimming thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the Blue-Tongued Skink. The probe should be positioned on the floor in the basking area and the probe cable should be taped to the floor 2-8cm (1-3") back from the actual probe sensor. This will ensure an accurate temperature reading and prevent the probe becoming dislodged. Carefully place the substrate on top of the probe cable leaving just the probe above the surface.

A Spotlight Guard (HHGR16) should be used to surround the heat bulb to prevent the animal coming into direct contact with the heat source.

Check temperatures regularly, using a reliable dual thermometer and hygrometer to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

DIET & WATER

Hatchlings through to adults should be offered the same varied diet throughout life, with a mixture of Insects such as Crickets (LSL35), Locust (LLH50) and Roaches (LDL8)

A good mixture of plant, greens, and vegetable matter is also an essential part of the diet.

Always provide a source of fresh water via a suitably sized water bowl.

Misting the Vivarium as needed will also allow for the maintenance and regulation of the Vivarium humidity.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Blue-Tongued Skink is semi-fossorial, so be sure to use a substrate which allows for digging and burrowing like HabiStat Jungle Bio (HSJB10) or Arcadia EarthMix (RARE10).

This is a species that consumes both insects and vegetation; variety is vital to their diet.

Blue-Tongued Skinks can grow up to 30 inches, so a suitably large enclosure is essential.

Blue-Tongued Skinks, as the name suggests, have a distinctively large blue tongue.

Lighting

Use the Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit 12% (RARTP24R) attached to the inside roof of the Vivarium.

Ensure that it is fitted correctly and within the manufacturers recommend distances.

Substrates and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your Vivarium, but we recommend the following as examples:

- HabiStat Jungle Bio (HSJB10), or Arcadia EarthMix (RARE10)
- Wood/branches and deep a substrate for aiding humidity
- Live or artificial plant decoration will provide darker areas for the Blue-Tongued Skink to use as shelter.

SUPPLEMENTATION

Blue-Tongued Skinks need additional supplementation in the form of a calcium and multi-vitamin powder such as Arcadia Earth Pro-A (RAREP100) and Arcadia Earth Pro Calcium Mg (RAREPCM80). Follow the on-pack instructions.



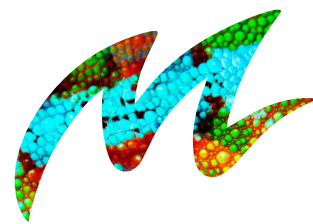
HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Blue-Tongued Skink healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	Change old water for fresh water	Spot clean	Check vents on enclosure are not blocked and allow air to pass through freely
Weekly	Disinfect water bowl or dish	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build-up and remove any dirty bedding	Wipe down glass and walls with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Take out old substrate and replace with new substrate	Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling or feeding your Blue-Tongued Skink, their food, enclosure and any other equipment.



Monkfield Nutrition Ltd
Arthur Rickwood Farm
Chatteris Road, Mepal, Ely, CB6 2AZ

MonkfieldReptile
Everything Reptile

monkfieldreptile.com
Telephone: 01223 208261

