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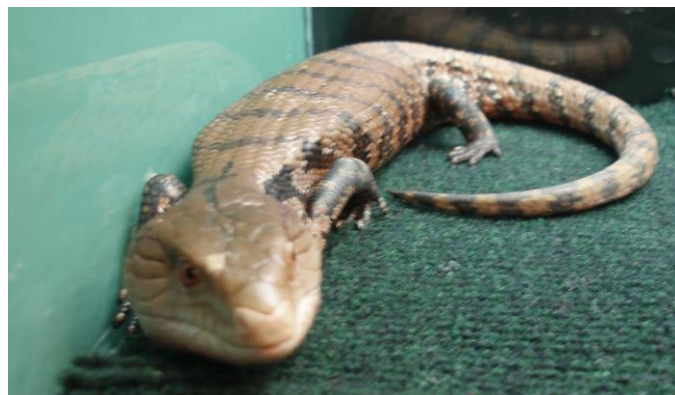


Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

Blue Tongue Skink

Tiliqua sp.

Lifespan: 20 to 25 years on average.

Size: 14 to 24 inches depending on species.

Sexing: Skinks are very difficult to sex. The most accurate way is to get them probed or an ultrasound; probing should only be done by a Vet or experienced Breeder.

Enclosure: Blue Tongue Skinks should have at least a 3x2x2' or 4x2x2' enclosure depending on the species.

Hiding/Climbing Spots: Provide lots of branches and twigs for your Skink to bury under. A hiding cave or 2 are necessary.

Humidity: The enclosure should be well ventilated and misted well to keep the humidity high (60% to 80%) and to aid the process of shedding and prevent health problems. Use a hygrometer to maintain a constant humidity level. A MistKing can be added to maintain humidity on a programmed schedule. Provide a water dish large enough for the animal to curl up in to help aid the shedding process.

Substrate: Loose Forest flooring is best to use for substrate. It is good for burrowing and holds in moisture. 2-4" of substrate is ideal to allow for burrowing. ***Pisces recommends: Zoomed Reptisoil, Exo Terra Eco Earth and Mosses mixed in.***

Heat: Maintain a temperature of as low as 70-75°F at night to as high as 80-85°F during the day (70 °F to 90 °F with a basking spot of around 90-92°F). Use a heat bulb on one portion of the tank so the animal can escape the warm area if they need to. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra and Arcadia bulbs and fixtures.***

UV Lighting: Use of a full spectrum T5 bulb for 10-12 hours per day is recommended. UVB bulbs lose effectiveness and need to be replaced every 6-10 months. ***Pisces Recommends Arcadia T5 Pro 12% Kit***

Feeding: A Blue Tongue's diet should include crickets, worms, and fruits and vegetables (kale, green leaf or romaine lettuce, dandelion leaves and strawberries, grapes, blueberries, mango on occasion). Avoid spinach and other bitter tasting vegetables as they impede the ability to take in vitamins and bind calcium. Feed adult Skinks 4-5-week-old crickets every two days and veggies/eggs daily. Feed juveniles/babies 3-4-week-old crickets. Many blue tongues will eat

pureed food such as canned dog/cat food or canned snails without shells. They can also eat uncooked quail eggs as a treat and hard-boiled eggs.

Vitamins & Supplements: Dust crickets with a vitamin powder supplement every other feeding. ***Pisces recommends: Repashy Calcium Plus and Supervite***

Handling: Skinks may tolerate some handling; but are very quick tempered and fast. Be careful not to drop your Skink because of their quickness. The more you handle your skink, the more it will put up with being held. If you continue with patience, Blue Tongues can become very tame.

Safe Handling of Reptiles*: As with all living creatures, reptiles can carry microorganisms (including Salmonella) which can make people ill. To reduce the chances of infection, always follow these safe handling steps:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet, its food and anything it has touched.
- Keep your pet in a habitat designed for it; do not let your pet reptile roam around the home without proper supervision.
- Keep your pet, its food dishes and cage components out of the kitchen.
- Don't nuzzle or kiss your pet.
- Infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a compromised immune system have a greater risk of infection. Extra caution should be taken when they are in contact with any animal. Children under 5 should handle reptiles only under adult/parent supervision.

Your New Pet: It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet's health and to prevent illness. Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you, but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat. A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.

Pisces Recommended Setup:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Glass/PVC terrarium (Exo Terra Large 36x18x18 or EcoFlex Reptile Lounge 3x2x2') ❑ Exo Terra Cave(s) ❑ Zoomed/Jurassic cork flats/rounds for hiding and climbing ❑ Exo Terra misting bottle or a MistKing system ❑ Exo Terra/Zoomed/Pet-Tekk medium water dish ❑ Jurassic sphagnum moss or terrarium moss for humidity ❑ Zoomed Reptisoil, Exo Terra plantation soil for substrate. Give enough to allow burrowing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Exo Terra 150W Intense Basking Lamp & Flukers 8.5in Dimmable Deluxe Clamp Lamp ❑ Arcadia T5 Pro D3+ 12% UVB kit ❑ Repashy Calcium Plus ❑ Repashy Supervite Multivitamin ❑ Crickets/worms (dependent on size of the animal) ❑ Exo Terra digital thermometer, hydrometer or combometer ❑ Eco-Fresh dubia roaches make great feeders and add variation to their diet ❑ Repashy Bluey Buffet gel diet can be given on top of veggies to add protein to their diet ❑ Repashy SuperVeggie |
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**Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*