

PISCES

PET EMPORIUM

Desert Skinks

Including: Berber Skink, Golden Skink, Blue Tail Skink, etc.

Eumeces schneideri, Mabuya Multifasciata, Cryptoblepharus egeriae, etc

Lifespan: 10 to 20 years.

Size: Up to 12 inches.

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

Enclosure: These Skinks should have at least a 20-gallon long tank.

Hiding/Climbing Spots: Provide lots of branches and twigs for your Skink to climb on. A hiding cave is necessary.

Humidity: The enclosure should be well ventilated to keep the humidity moderate (Up to 40%) and to aid the process of shedding and prevent health problems. Use a hygrometer to maintain a constant humidity level. Provide a water dish large enough for the animal to curl up in to help aid the shedding process.

Substrate: Repti-liner is the easiest substrate to use, however most adult skinks will be okay on fine desert sand. ***Pisces recommends: Repti-liner.***

Heat: Maintain a temperature of as low as 18 °C at night to as high as 32 °C during the day (65 °F to 90 °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 bulbs and fixtures.***

UV Lighting: Use of a full spectrum 10.0 bulb for 12 hours per day is required. Fluorescent bulbs lose effectiveness and need to be replaced every 6-8 months.

Feeding: Feed adult Skinks 3-4-week-old crickets every two days. Feed juveniles/babies 2-3-week-old crickets. You can also offer Wax Worms, Super Worms, Butter Worms, and Phoenix Worms as a treat.

Vitamins & Supplements: Dust crickets with a vitamin powder supplement every other feeding.

Pisces recommends: *Rep-Cal Herptivite Multi-Vitamin.*

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.

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.

Recommended Books: Pisces recommends *Terrarium Animals From A to Z* (Barron's Books).

Recommended Supplies:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Glass terrarium (long is best) ❑ Screen top (if not included with terrarium) ❑ Cave ❑ Misting bottle ❑ Water dish ❑ Plantation Soil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Heat Bulb & Fixture ❑ Fluorescent Light & Fixture ❑ Rep-Cal Calcium Supplement ❑ Rep-Cal Herptivite Multi-Vitamin ❑ Crickets ❑ Thermometer ❑ Hygrometer |
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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.



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**Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*