

African Blue Tailed Skink care sheet



PROFILE

Common Name: blue tailed skink, five-lined skink

Latin Name: *Trachylepis quinquetaeniata*

Native To: south Africa

Size: 3.5 – 5.5"

Life Span: 5 – 8 years

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Environment:

Found throughout forest and jungle scrubland, grassland and bordering along agricultural land.

Vivarium Size:

We recommend a 36x15x15 vivarium for these active lizards, but as with most lizard species, the larger the enclosure the better. Floor space is more important than climbing opportunities as blue tail skinks are semi fossorial and will spend some of their time under ground. Blue tail skinks can be kept communally given enough space

Substrate:

A good forest mix allowing for water retention and increased humidity but also allowing the blue tail to dig and burrow would be ideal.

There are many different prepared substrates available to use including forest bedding, coco husk, bark chippings and mixed soils. Including underground hides (such as buried drain pipe), stout low branches and slate/rocks will give the skinks enrichment.

Food and Water:

Blue tail skinks are exclusively insectivorous and will take any invertebrate that they can fit in their mouths. Crickets, locust, morio worm, roaches and mealworms will make up the bulk of the diet with waxworms, small snails and earthworms as occasional treats. Water should be available at all times with opportunity to submerge themselves fully. Relative humidity should be maintained at 30-60%.

Heat/Light Requirements:

Blue tail skinks enjoy high heat and mid level humidity. The vivarium should be set up with basking spot and fairly level temperature gradient. UV lighting is essential for these animals and should be provided 10-12% UVB 10-12 hours per day.

Below are the ideal temperatures for your blue tail skink, all of which can be thermostatically controlled:

Day (cool end): 25 - 28°C

Basking (warm end): 30 - 35°C

Night: 22 - 24°C

Please note that this care sheet is only for your basic husbandry knowledge and that it is always recommended that you do further reading.

FURTHER READING

www.reptilesmagazine.com

Any Problems?

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