

# Indonesian Blue Tongue Skink



## PROFILE

*Common Name:* **Blue tongue skink**

*Latin Name:* ***Tiliqua gigas***

*Native To:* **Indonesia**

*Size:* **M:30" F:24"**

*Life Span:* **15 – 20 years**

## HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

### ***Environment:***

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

### ***Vivarium Size:***

We recommend a 36x15x15 vivarium for these iconic lizards, but as with most lizard species, the larger the enclosure the better. Floor space is more important than climbing opportunities as blue tongues are semi fossorial and will spend some of their time under ground.

### ***Substrate:***

A good forest mix allowing for water retention and increased humidity but also allowing the blue tongue 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 blue tongue enrichment.

## ***Food and Water:***

Blue tongue skinks are omnivores and enjoy a varied diet in the wild. Insects, invertebrates, molluscs, nesting birds and their eggs, fruits, greens and vegetables.

As a ratio for their diet you should be looking at 50% live and animal based foods, 40% leafy greens and vegetables and 10% fruit. There are also a number of prepared omnivore foods that will be readily accepted by blue tongue skinks.

Water should be available at all times with opportunity to submerge themselves fully. Relative humidity should be maintained at 60-80% (dependent on sub species)

## ***Heat/Light Requirements:***

Blue tongue skinks enjoy high heat and high 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% UVB 10-12 hours per day.

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

Day (cool end): 25 - 28°C

Basking (warm end): 32 - 38°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](http://www.reptilesmagazine.com)

## ***Any Problems?***

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

Or email us at [shirley\\_reptiles@live.co.uk](mailto:shirley_reptiles@live.co.uk)

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