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SKINKS

King's Skink

Egernia kingii

A large, heavy and almost black skink from the south-west coast of Australia. *Egernia kingii* is omnivorous, gives birth to live young and lives a long time. Little documented knowledge exists on its care in the terrarium, so this guide is based on the species in the wild and on its close relatives *Egernia stokesii* and *Egernia cunninghami*.

Family: Scincidae Former name: *Tiliqua kingii*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**55 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**220-360 g**
Lifespan	**20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-32 °C**
Basking spot	**38-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**14-20 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit, plants and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**36-60 months**
Litter size	**2-8 young**
Gestation	**140-154 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little documented knowledge exists on the care of *Egernia kingii*.
TEMPERATURE	By day the air should be 25-32 °C with a clear gradient from the cool to the warm end. Under a halogen spot lies a large, flat stone whose surface should reach 38-45 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 40-60%. Mist the enclosure lightly a couple of times a week, and keep the substrate slightly damp under one hide at the cool end, so the animal can choose. A large dish of fresh water should always be available.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Egernia kingii* is diurnal and needs UVB for as long as the light is on. A UVB tube in a reflector over the basking spot, covering about half the length of the enclosure, gives Ferguson zone 3.
FEEDING	*Egernia kingii* is omnivorous. In the wild the diet is mostly soft plant material, supplemented with insects and birds' eggs.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is a large and powerful skink. The animals' social life is not documented in the same way as in *Egernia stokesii* and *Egernia cunninghami*, which live in family groups.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.