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SKINKS

Cunningham's Skink

Egernia cunninghami

A large, diurnal and highly social skink with a spiny tail from temperate south-eastern Australia. *Egernia cunninghami* lives in family groups in rock crevices, gives birth to live young and hibernates during the cold months. It needs a large, sunlit enclosure with solid rock structures and UVB.

Family: Scincidae Former name: *Tiliqua cunninghami* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**30-40 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**200-350 g**
Lifespan	**20-27 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Rocky terrain and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-30 °C**
Basking spot	**35-40 °C**
Temperature, night	**12-18 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit, plants and worms/snails**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**60 months**
Litter size	**1-8 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**90 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Egernia cunninghami* is a large species, and it needs a spacious enclosure. A pair needs at least 120 × 60 × 60 cm (length × width × height); 120 × 40 × 40 cm is the absolute lower limit and leaves little room for a gradient.
TEMPERATURE	The enclosure must have a clear gradient: 31-35 °C at the warm end and about 25 °C at the cool end.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	*Egernia cunninghami* comes from temperate rocky forests, and a humidity of 40-60 % is suitable. Mist the enclosure lightly a couple of times a week, and keep a damp hide at the cool end so that the animal can choose for itself.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Egernia cunninghami* is diurnal, basks a great deal and must have UVB for as long as the light is on. A 5-6 % UVB tube in a reflector over the basking area, covering about half the length of the enclosure, gives Ferguson zone 3.
FEEDING	*Egernia cunninghami* is omnivorous, but adults are mainly herbivores: in the wild more than 90 % of their food consists of plant material. Young animals eat far more arthropods.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Egernia cunninghami* is one of the most social reptiles: it lives in long-lasting family groups.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.