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SKINKS

Common Blue-tongued Skink

Tiliqua scincoides

A sturdy, heavily built skink from Australia and eastern Indonesia with a broad, bright blue tongue that it displays when it feels threatened. *Tiliqua scincoides* is diurnal, omnivorous and calm, reaches 45-60 cm in length and can live for about 20 years. It needs a large enclosure, UVB and a warm basking spot.

Family: Scincidae Former name: *Lacerta scincoides* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**45-60 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**400-600 g**
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Savanna and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**180 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**21-33 °C**
Basking spot	**35-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-24 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit, plants and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**18-36 months**
Litter size	**6-15 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**90-120 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult animal needs an enclosure of at least 180 × 60 × 60 cm (length × width × height), corresponding to just over 1 m² of floor area. Larger is better, and stricter standards call for about 180 × 120 × 90 cm.

TEMPERATURE

The animal must be able to choose between 21-26 °C at the cool end and 28-33 °C at the warm end. The surface of the basking spot must be 35-45 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The Australian subspecies need a humidity of 40-60 %, measured at the cool end. The Indonesian *T. s. chimaerea* needs 60-80 %.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal and needs both UVB and strong light. Use a T5 tube with UVB, and position it so that the UV index at the basking spot is about 3-4 (Ferguson zone 3).

FEEDING

Tiliqua scincoides is omnivorous. The staple is a mixture of greens, animal protein and a little fruit. Juveniles under 12 months need 70-80 % protein, adults about 50-60 %.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Tiliqua scincoides is calm, and captive-bred animals often become very tame. Wild-caught animals are more easily stressed and more defensive. A skink is tamed by speaking calmly to it and letting it come to you at its own pace.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia and Indonesia.