

Blue Tailed Skink

The blue tailed skink is a very small reptile from the skink family. They are great pets for observation and are very active, diurnal lizards. Females tend to be more colourful than the males with yellow stripes along the body and males are duller in colour with slight red tints on the head. Males cannot be kept together as they are aggressive to one another.

Other names include the five lined skink (more recognisable in females).



Glossary

Reptile – A cold-blooded vertebrate with scaly skin.

Amphibian – A cold-blooded vertebrate that begins life as an aquatic animal and grows into a terrestrial adult with lungs.

Terrestrial – A ground dwelling animal.

Arboreal – An animal that lives in trees.

Diurnal – Awake in the day.

Nocturnal – Awake during the night.

UVB – Ultraviolet radiation.

Colubrid – A family of snakes.

Hybrid – Offspring from animals of different species.

Morph – Colourations created due to genetics.

Musk – Unpleasant odour released when an animal is stressed or feels threatened.

Live plants are only available on special order

If you require any further information, please ask our pet care advisors who will be very happy to help.

Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

Chessington Garden Centre

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Blue Tailed Skink



Care & Advice Sheet

Inspiration for your Home & Garden



Size & Housing

Blue tailed skinks usually reach between 6 to 8 inches in length. These lizards are best housed in wooden vivariums as they retain heat well but glass terrariums can also be used. We recommend:

60 x 45 x 30cm / 24 x 18 x 12" – Minimum for 1 Adult

90 x 45 x 30cm / 36 x 18 x 12" – Minimum for 2-3 Adults

Substrate & Furnishings

Young lizards should be kept on reptile carpet, kitchen towel or newspaper as they are prone to impaction. Adults can live on loose substrate such as orchid bark, humus bricks, coco fibre, rainforest barks or jungle earth. Live or artificial plants should be used with plenty of rocks, logs, bark and branches. They are ground dwelling lizards but will climb to reach their basking area. Spot pick the enclosure daily and full clean once or twice a month using a reptile specific disinfectant.

Please Note – Not all live plants are reptile friendly.

Lighting & Temperature

Provide UVB at 12% to create a daytime cycle of 10–12 hours a day. This is best controlled by a timer. They need a basking area with a temperature around 30°C. Achieve this by using a heat bulb or ceramic heat emitter controlled by a thermostat at all times. Heat mats can be used but struggle to maintain the levels of heat in colder months. There should be a temperature gradient in the enclosure varying by a few degrees to create a cool end. At night the temperature can drop to 22°C.

Food & Water

Blue tailed skinks are carnivorous and should be a fed a variety of appropriate sized insects such as:

- Crickets
- Locusts
- Mealworms
- Waxworms (treat)

Insects should be gut loaded before feeding and dusted with a calcium supplement 3 times a week and multivitamins (Nutrobal) once a week. Fresh water should be offered daily. The enclosure should be misted every 1–2 days.

Handling

These lizards are not great for handling and are likely to escape at any given chance. They will drop their tail if they feel threatened or vulnerable but it will grow back. Avoid handling where possible unless absolutely necessary.

