

# BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

## (Tiliqua)

Blue-tongue lizards are amazing pets - highly intelligent, friendly and easy to look after! They are also quite docile, become tame quickly and typically tolerate being handled even by small children. However, care should be taken with your new friend initially - these guys are omnivores and can mistake wriggling fingers for food!

There are seven species of blue-tongue lizards and two sub-species. They are found throughout most of Australia, often in areas with lots of leaf litter, logs and rocks. They tend to hide at night and use the sun to bask and search for food, during the warmest parts of the day.

You may see a blue-tongue lizard in your garden, and unless he is injured or under threat from your pets, you can safely leave him alone. In fact, not only are they a protected species, but they are beneficial for your garden. They will help reduce pests such as snails and are not a danger to people -they are not poisonous and will not bite or chase you, provided you leave them alone. You will need to obtain your pet blue-tongue lizard from a licensed breeder and you may need a license. To check the licensing requirements in your state to keep a pet lizard, please check our [Reptile Licence Forms](#).

## COMPANIONS

You should ideally keep your blue-tongue lizard in an enclosure by himself. They prefer to live on their own, and housing them together can cause aggression and fights for dominance.



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## BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD CARE SHEET

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## HOUSING

Your blue-tongue may grow up to 60cm, so he will need quite a large enclosure. A starting point of at least 120x45x60cm for your glass enclosure is ideal. Considering his potential adult size, the bigger, the better! Your tank will require a screen cover with locks to keep your lizard secure.

To meet your lizard's needs, you will also need a low, flat log or rock for him to bask on, a shallow water bowl, a feeding dish, substrate and a place to hide.

You will also need to provide a heater pad or lamp, UVB lighting, substrate and thermometers to monitor your lizard's temperatures.

## ACCESSORIES

In addition to your lizard's water source and food bowl, he will also need safe hiding places. Ideally, this will be dark and slightly damp, with a substrate such as moss. While not strong climbers, blue-tongue lizards do enjoy exploring and climbing over rocks and logs of varying, low height. This can also help to keep their claws worn down and not too sharp. A substrate such as bark chips is ideal for your lizard. You can also temporarily use newspaper, but cedar or pine shavings must be avoided. The housing will need to be spot cleaned each day, with a regular, thorough clean also be performed regularly. You will need to thoroughly rinse your lizard's housing before replacing your substrate material and putting your pet back in his home.

## FOOD

In the wild, blue-tongue lizards are omnivorous and feast on a variety of plants and animals. You can mimic their natural diets by providing a good variety of food - fruits, vegetables and even small amounts of baby and dog foods as a treat.

You can also provide [gut-loaded](#) crickets, mixed in with [vitamins](#), once or twice per week. [Frozen mice](#), thawed, are also a popular blue tongue food.

In the wild, your lizard will also feast on snails, crunching away at the shell to get to the snail within, so you can provide snails too.

Take care that you do not have any snail pellets in your garden before feeding - if the snails have eaten a pellet, your lizard may become fatally ill.

Young lizards should be fed daily, while you should feed your adult lizard every second day.



*Your blue-tongue probably won't mind being handled*

## TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY

Your lizard, like many other reptiles, will need a temperature range in his housing to meet his requirements. One end will need to be a warm, basking area - at least 32°C, up to 35°C. You should provide a low log or rock at this end. Your lizard is not a strong climber, so it's important to keep these at an accessible height, allowing him to do some climbing without overdoing it. You can provide this warmth using a heat lamp. The cooler end of his housing should be between 18 - 21°C. It's important to not let this dip below 18°C, even at night. You will need reliable thermometers at either end of your lizard's housing, which will need to be checked at least daily.

## LIGHTING

Your lizard will need a 'day cycle', provided by a UVB 5.0 globe, which should be kept on for 12 hours per day. This will simulate a normal day cycle, and help your lizard to thrive. You should expect to replace your globe every 6 months, as they tend to diminish over time. Additionally, if possible, you should provide some access to natural light once or twice per week (not through glass). You can place your light globe on a timer to help ensure you are giving your lizard sufficient light, but your heat source should never be on a timer.

## LIFE SPAN

Blue-tongue lizards are quite hardy, and if well cared for, can live up to 20 years (or more!) in captivity.

