

PINK-TONGUE LIZARD (Hemisphaeriodon)

Pink-tongued lizards are growing in popularity as pets, due to their striking colours and, once fully grown, pink tongues! Juveniles will have striking banding and a black tongue, which, as they grow, will change to the pink tongue they are known for. Known to be quite laidback, pink-tongues are a good beginner lizard. They usually don't mind being handled, but you should take it slowly to begin with. As your lizard becomes more comfortable being held by you, you can gradually increase how long you hold her for.

Pink-tongue lizards can be found around the Great Dividing Range near Sydney up the east coast to Cairns in Queensland. They are often in the same general tropical and sub-tropical areas where blue-tongue lizards also exist, however, even though they may be about even in suburbia, they aren't seen as commonly as their blue-tongue counterparts. This is partly because they are most active after dark, choosing moist hiding spots during the day and tend to live in denser forests. Blue-tongues are much more wide spread. If you are lucky enough to see a pink-tongue lizard in your garden, she can be left alone unless she is injured or in danger from your pets. Like their blue-tongue friends, pink-tongues can be beneficial to the garden, choosing a semi-omnivorous diet including slugs, snails and other insects! If cornered or threatened, pink-tongues may bite in defense, however they are not venomous. As with all our wild creatures, it is best to admire them from afar. To check the licensing requirements in your state to keep a pet lizard, please check our [Reptile Licence Forms](#).



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HOUSING

Your pink-tongue may grow up to 30cm, so she will need an enclosure starting at least 45x45x45cm if she is to be housed alone. If you wish to house multiple pink-tongues, you should increase the size of their enclosure so that everyone has room to have their own space and curb any potential aggression.

Your enclosure will require a screen cover with locks to keep your lizard secure. This is especially important with pink-tongues as they are good and eager climbers.

To keep your pink-tongues happy, you will need places for them to climb, substrate to burrow in, a shallow water bowl, a feeding dish and places to hide.

You will also need to provide a heater pad or lamp, UVB lighting, and thermometers to maintain and monitor your pink-tongue's temperatures.

TEMPERATURE

Your lizard, like many other reptiles, will need a temperature range in her housing to meet her requirements.

One end will need to be a warm, basking area - at least 32°C, up to 35°C. You can provide this warmth using a heat lamp. A heat mat can also be used with a lamp.

The cooler end of her housing should be between 23- 28°C. Ideally, the temperature should not dip lower than 23°C.

You will need reliable thermometers at either end of your lizard's housing, which will need to be checked at least daily.

ACCESSORIES

In addition to your lizard's water source and food bowls, she will also need safe hiding places.

Pink-tongues are good climbers and will appreciate having multiple decorations and heights to climb and explore. Branches, rocks and substrate are all required so that your lizards can climb, scabble and burrow. A loose substrate is ideal for pink-tongues, as this allows them to easily burrow, as they do in the wild. Loose bark chips or similar are suitable. The housing will need to be spot cleaned each day, with a 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 her home.

LIGHTING

A UVB light in your enclosure can help your pink-tongue absorb calcium and also synthesise vitamin D3. As they will not receive direct daylight in their enclosure, providing them a day-night cycle with approximately 12 hours of UVB lighting per day is a good alternative. You should expect to replace your globe every 6 months, as they tend to diminish over time.

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

Pink-tongue lizards, when well cared for, can live between 15-20 years in captivity!

FOOD

In the wild, your pink-tongue would eat a variety of animals and plants. Slugs and snails are a common food source, however you should be careful feeding these from your garden in case of any pesticide or snail pellet remnants, as these can be fatal for your lizards. Variety is key with your pink-tongue, who will enjoy feasting on a varied diet of proteins, some greens, and even some fruit such as bananas! You can even feed your pink-tongue some cat or dog food. They will also enjoy live foods, such as [crickets](#) or [mealworms](#).

Young lizards should be fed every day or every second day, while fully grown pink-tongues can be fed three times per week. You should dust their food with [reptile supplements](#) once per week to ensure they are getting everything they need to remain healthy. Providing [gut-loaded live insects](#) is another way to include additional nutrients in to their diet.

COMPANIONS

Your pink-tongue can live in a small group - typically, two females and one male. You should never keep multiple males together as this can lead to aggressive fighting and injury.

If you do want to keep multiple pink-tongues together, hiding places are even more important in your enclosure. There should be plenty of hiding places for each lizard to have their own territory, safely away from everyone else. This can reduce fighting and aggression and is the best way to keep your lizards living happily together.

