



Wet Pets N Critters

Monkey-Tailed Skink Care Guide

(*Corucia zebrata*, also known as Solomon Island Skink or Prehensile-Tailed Skink)

Monkey-tailed skinks are **large, slow-moving, plant-eating lizards** native to the Solomon Islands. They are known for their calm personalities, social behavior, and strong, prehensile tails. With proper care, they can live **15–25 years** or more!

Housing

- **Enclosure Size:**
 - Minimum **4x2x4 feet** vertical enclosure for a single adult; larger is always better.
- **Enclosure Type:**
 - Use a **tall, well-ventilated glass or PVC reptile enclosure**.
- **Substrate:**
 - Use **coconut fiber, reptile bark, or cypress mulch** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) to maintain humidity.
- **Decor:**
 - Add **sturdy branches, logs, and live or artificial plants** for climbing and hiding. These arboreal skinks love to explore.
 - Provide multiple **hides** for security.

Temperature & Humidity

- **Temperature:**
 - Basking area: 85–90°F
 - Ambient temperature: 75–82°F
 - Nighttime: Can drop to 70–75°F
- **Humidity:**
 - 70–90% humidity is ideal. Mist the enclosure daily and monitor with a **humidity gauge**.
- **Heating & Lighting:**
 - Use a **basking bulb** and a **ceramic heat emitter** if needed (both available at Wet Pets N Critters).
 - A **low-level UVB light (5.0)** is recommended for vitamin D3 synthesis and overall health.

Diet

Monkey-tailed skinks are **herbivores**. Feed a variety of fresh, dark leafy greens and vegetables, such as:

- Collard greens
- Mustard greens
- Dandelion greens
- Squash
- Green beans

Offer occasional fruits as treats, like papaya, berries, or mango (no citrus).

Calcium supplement: Lightly dust food with **calcium powder with vitamin D3** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) 2–3 times per week.

Provide **fresh water daily** in a shallow dish.

Cleaning & Maintenance

- Spot-clean daily to remove waste.
- Replace substrate and clean the enclosure with **reptile-safe cleaner** every 4–6 weeks.
- Clean water and food dishes daily.

Social Behavior

Monkey-tailed skinks are unique because they **live in family groups in the wild**. Some can be housed in compatible pairs or small groups, but introductions must be done carefully. Always supervise new pairings and separate if aggression occurs.

Handling

Monkey-tailed skinks are generally calm but can be shy. Handle gently and slowly, supporting their body and allowing them to grip with their strong tails. Avoid sudden movements, and give new skinks time to adjust before handling frequently.

Health Tips

Signs of a healthy skink:

- Bright, alert eyes
- Smooth skin
- Regular appetite
- Normal, well-formed droppings

If you notice swelling, lethargy, or refusal to eat, contact a reptile veterinarian.

Supplies Checklist (Available at Wet Pets N Critters)

- Large vertical enclosure
- Screen top or ventilated lid
- Basking bulb and ceramic heat emitter
- UVB bulb (5.0)
- Digital thermometer and humidity gauge

- Coconut fiber, reptile bark, or cypress mulch
- Sturdy branches, logs, and plants
- Food and water dishes
- Calcium powder with vitamin D3
- Reptile-safe cleaner