

# Blue Tongue Lizard Care Guide

## TEMPERAMENT

Generally Clam

## HANDLE-ABILITY

Occasional - Not Recommended

## LIFESPAN

15-20 years

## MINIMUM TANK SIZE

120x60x45cm

## TEMPERATURE RANGE

Warm side: 30-32°C (86-90°F)

Cool side: 22-25°C (75-80°F)

## HUMIDITY RANGE

General: 25-55%

During Shedding: 60-65%

## UVB

5.0 UVB

## TANK MATES

None

## FEEDING

Insects, Snails/Slugs, Vegetation, Flowers

## SAFE FLORA



## ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT

Children's pythons thrive in environments that mimic their natural habitats, providing opportunities for climbing, exploring, and hiding. Include sturdy branches, rocks, and artificial caves to encourage natural behaviors. Live or artificial plants can also create visual barriers, reduce stress, and enhance the enclosure's appearance. Rearranging these elements occasionally can provide novelty and mental stimulation for the python.

## FEEDING

**Diet:** Blue tongue lizards are omnivores with a varied diet. A balanced meal consists of:

- **Proteins:** Lean meats (chicken, turkey), insects (mealworms, crickets), or commercial dog food (low-fat, grain-free).
- **Vegetables:** Leafy greens (kale, collard greens), squash, carrots, and sweet potatoes.
- **Fruits:** Occasional treats like berries, melons, or mango (in moderation).

Avoid feeding avocado, rhubarb, or citrus, as these are toxic to lizards.

### Feeding Schedule

- **Juveniles:** Feed daily or every other day, offering food in small, manageable portions.
- **Adults:** Feed every 2-3 days. Provide enough food to match their activity level without overfeeding.

**Supplements:** Dust food with calcium powder (with D3) 2-3 times per week to prevent metabolic bone disease.

## HANDLING

- **How to Handle:** Support their body fully, including the tail, and avoid restraining their legs or head.
- **Frequency:** Handle 2-3 times per week for short periods to build trust.
- **Avoid During Stress:** Do not handle during shedding or immediately after a meal.

## HEALTH MONITORING:

A healthy blue tongue lizard is active, alert, and has smooth, shiny scales. Watch for signs of illness, including:

- **Respiratory Issues:** Wheezing or excessive mucus.
- **Mouth Rot:** Swollen gums or discolored tissue.
- **Lethargy:** Reduced activity or appetite.
- **Shedding Problems:** Retained skin on toes or tail.

Consult a reptile veterinarian promptly if you notice these symptoms.

## LIGHTING AND HEAT

Blue tongue lizards require UVB lighting to synthesize vitamin D3 and absorb calcium.

- **UVB Lighting:** Use a 10.0 UVB bulb, ensuring it covers the basking area.
- **Basking Spot:** Maintain a basking temperature of 32-35°C.
- **Cool Side:** The cool end of the enclosure should remain around 22-26°C.
- **Nighttime Temperature:** A drop to 18-20°C is acceptable. Use a ceramic heat emitter if necessary during colder months.

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## SHOPPING CART

- UVB 5.0 Bulb & Dome
- Thermometer & Hygrometer
- Heat Bulb/Tube & Housing
- Dry Schlerophyl Substrate
- 120x60x45cm Enclosure (min)
- Water bowl
- Feeding Dish
- Cork Bark Hide
- Foliage (live or artificial)
- On/Off Timer (Optional)
- Calcium powder + D3
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## HABITAT SETUP

Blue tongue lizards are intelligent reptiles that thrive in a stimulating environment. Enrichment encourages natural behaviors like burrowing, basking, and exploring.

- **Climbing and Hiding:** Provide sturdy logs, rocks, and hides at varying heights and locations in the enclosure. While they are mostly ground-dwellers, they enjoy climbing low structures.
- **Foraging Opportunities:** Hide food items within the enclosure or create puzzle feeders to stimulate their natural foraging instincts.
- **Rearranging Decor:** Periodically moving decor around can prevent boredom and encourage exploration.
- **Natural Substrate:** Use a deep, loose substrate for digging, as burrowing is a favorite activity.

## HABITAT SETUP

- **Enclosure:** A spacious enclosure is essential. For adults, aim for at least 120x60x45 cm. The enclosure should have a secure lid to prevent escapes and good ventilation to maintain air quality.
- **Substrate:** Opt for loose, natural substrates such as coconut coir, cypress mulch, or sandy soil mixes. Avoid cedar or pine shavings, as they release harmful oils. Provide a depth of 10-15 cm to allow burrowing.
- **Decor:** Include sturdy hides, flat rocks for basking, and branches for climbing. Add artificial or live plants to create visual barriers and reduce stress. Ensure decor is stable to prevent injury.

## SIZE & SEX

- **Juvenile:** Juvenile blue tongues are around 9-14 cm at birth. Their smaller size makes them more delicate and prone to stress, so provide an enclosure scaled to their needs and avoid handling excessively.
- **Adult:** Adults grow to 45-60 cm, with a bulky body. They require a larger enclosure (minimum 120x60x45 cm) to support their active lifestyle.
- **Sexual Dimorphism:** Sexing blue tongues is challenging, as there are no obvious physical differences between males and females. Experienced keepers may identify males by slightly larger heads and a more tapered body, but DNA testing or behavioral observation during breeding season is often required.
- **Growth Rate:** Blue tongues grow rapidly in their first year, reaching near-adult size within 18-24 months. Proper nutrition and a healthy environment are crucial during this growth phase.

