

# Tiliqua gigas gigas (Indonesian Blue-Tongued Skink) Care Guide

## Overview

- **Common Name:** Indonesian Blue-Tongued Skink
  - **Scientific Name:** *Tiliqua gigas gigas*
  - **Origin:** Indonesia (humid tropical regions)
  - **Size:** 18–24 inches
  - **Lifespan:** 15–25 years (with proper care)
  - **Temperament:** Generally docile, can be defensive if stressed
  - **Experience Level:** Beginner to intermediate
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## Natural Habitat

*Tiliqua gigas gigas* comes from **humid tropical forests and plantations**. Unlike Australian species, they require **higher humidity** and warmer, stable conditions.

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## Enclosure Requirements

### Size

- **Minimum for adult:** 4 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft (120-gallon equivalent)
- Larger is always better

### Type

- PVC enclosures recommended (hold humidity well)
- Glass tanks acceptable with modifications to retain humidity

### Substrate

Use moisture-retaining substrates:

- Cypress mulch
- Coconut fiber (eco earth)
- Orchid bark mix
- Soil/sand mix (bioactive setups work well)

Depth: 3–5 inches minimum for burrowing

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## Temperature & Heating

- **Basking spot:** 95–105°F
- **Warm side:** 85–90°F
- **Cool side:** 75–80°F
- **Night temps:** 70–75°F

Heating options:

- Halogen basking bulb (best)
  - Ceramic heat emitter (for night if needed)
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## Humidity

- **Ideal range:** 60–80%
- Mist daily or as needed
- Provide a **humid hide** with damp sphagnum moss

Signs of improper humidity:

- Shedding issues
  - Wrinkled skin
  - Lethargy
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## Lighting

- **UVB recommended (not optional):**
  - T5 HO 5.0–10.0 UVB strip
- 10–12 hour light cycle

UVB supports:

- Calcium metabolism
  - Prevents metabolic bone disease
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# Diet

## Diet Type: Omnivore (Varied Diet)

### Protein (40–50%)

- High-quality canned dog food (grain-free preferred)
- Insects (roaches, crickets, superworms)
- Cooked eggs (occasionally)

### Vegetables (40–50%)

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

### Fruits (10% or less)

- Mango
  - Papaya
  - Blueberries
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## Feeding Schedule

- **Juveniles:** Daily
  - **Adults:** 2–3 times per week
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## Supplements

- Calcium with D3: 2–3x per week
  - Multivitamin: 1x per week
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## Water

- Large shallow water dish
- Change daily
- Many individuals will soak

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## Handling & Temperament

- Can be very tame with regular interaction
- May hiss, puff up, or flatten body when stressed
- Support entire body when handling

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## Shedding

- Occurs in patches (normal for this species)
- Maintain proper humidity
- Provide rough surfaces (cork bark)

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## Common Health Issues

- Respiratory infections (low temps/high humidity imbalance)
- Parasites (common in wild-caught imports)
- Metabolic Bone Disease (lack of UVB/calcium)

**Important:** Many Indonesian skinks are wild-caught—fecal exams by a reptile vet are highly recommended.

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## Breeding Guide

### Sexing

- Males typically:
  - Larger heads
  - Thicker tails
- Females:
  - Slightly smaller, more slender

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### Sexual Maturity

- 2–3 years old
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## Breeding Season

- Typically triggered by:
    - Slight cooling period (optional but helpful)
    - Increased feeding afterward
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## Pairing

- Introduce male to female enclosure
- Closely supervise (males can be aggressive)

Signs of breeding:

- Biting/nudging
  - Following behavior
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## Gestation

- **Duration:** ~90–120 days
  - Species is **viviparous** (live-bearing, not egg-laying)
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## Litter Size

- Typically 5–15 babies
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## Birth & Neonates

- Babies are born fully formed
- Remove babies from enclosure shortly after birth

## Baby Care

- House separately or in small groups (monitor closely)
  - Temps/humidity same as adults
  - Feed:
    - Finely chopped greens
    - Small insects
    - Soft protein foods
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## Post-Breeding Care

- Females require:
    - Increased calcium
    - Extra nutrition
  - Avoid rebreeding immediately (rest period recommended)
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## Important Breeding Notes

- Many Indonesian blue tongues are imports—breeding them helps reduce wild capture
  - Always confirm animals are healthy and parasite-free before breeding
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## Quick Care Summary

- **Temp:** 75–105°F gradient
- **Humidity:** 60–80%
- **Diet:** Omnivore (balanced protein + greens)
- **UVB:** Required
- **Enclosure:** Minimum 4x2x2 ft