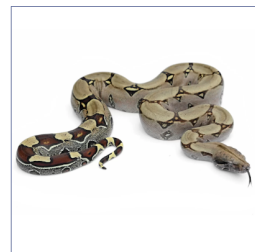


Skink

Scientific Name: Scincidae

Brief Description:



There are over one-thousand-five-hundred described species of skink roaming the earth. Several types are very common in the pet trade, but some may be less often seen. This pet care sheet will discuss care for some of the most common skinks. If your skink is different than those listed here, we suggest researching your specific skink for further care details. When caring for your Skink, the best possible outcome for your pet would be to replicate their native environment, as closely as possible. Select the right substrate, decorations, temperatures, and humidity levels for your specific type of skink.

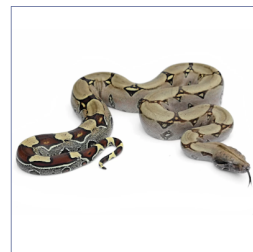
This pet care sheet applies to the following species of Skink:

- Red Sided Skink, eight-to-twelve inches in length.
- Ocellated Skink, eight-to-twelve inches in length.
- Fire Skink, fourteen-to-fifteen inches in length.
- Schneider's Skink, twelve-to-sixteen inches in length.
- Berber Skink, twelve-to-sixteen inches in length.
- Five Lined Skink, five-to-eight inches in length.
- Blue Tailed Skink, five-to-eight inches in length.
- Blue Tongue Skink, fourteen-to-eighteen inches in length.
- Sandfish Skink, seven to eight inches in length.
- Crocodile Skink, seven-to-eight inches in length.

Skink

Scientific Name: Scincidae

Cage Setup and Maintenance:



Skinks require a number of enclosure sizes to ensure they are happy and healthy.

- A twenty-to-forty gallon tank should suffice for a juvenile.
- Some of the skink species, such as Blue Tongue Skink, will thrive in a seventy-five gallon tank.

Skinks love to burrow deep into whatever substrate they are in. Provide your pet Skink with approximately three inches of bark, coconut husk shreds, Eco Earth or sand. Mix several of these together to see which your Skink prefers.

To help keep humidity up, you can add moss to part of the terrarium that is kept moist, but not saturated, at all times. Skinks are ground dwelling lizards, so branches are not necessary, unless for decorative purposes. They appreciate a background and plants around the sides of the terrarium for added security.

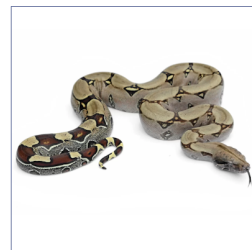
Spot clean soiled areas daily for all skinks, and generally do a full cleanout once a month for smaller species. Larger species, such as the Blue Tongue Skink, will often need their cage emptied and disinfected once every week or two.

Skink

Scientific Name: Scincidae

Note for Sandfish Skink:

Special Note for the Sandfish Skink: This skink has very specific requirements for their substrate. First, these lizards need a good 6 inches of sand on the bottom to accommodate their burrowing habits. The bottom layer of this sand bed needs to stay wet. This is achieved by running airline hoses to that bottom layer before filling the tank up with sand. You can then run water down the tube to moisten the bottom. Change this sand every few months and fully disinfect the cage with a reptile safe cleaner.



Note for Crocodile Skink:

These skinks are actually only semi terrestrial. They live in areas that are always along the edge of the water. They need a very large water dish, or even two large ones, depending on the bowl size and the tank size. This species of skink is shy and easily stressed. It's extremely important to keep a background on the tank and fake plants set up around the sides of the tank to help them feel more secure.

Feeding:

Skinks should be offered a variety of insects:

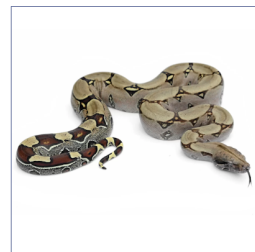
- Crickets, dubia roaches, mealworms, wax worms, silk worms.
- Dust insects with calcium powder / vitamin D3, every time.
- Dust insects with a multivitamin powder.
- Offer dark leafy greens and various fruits
 - o If they eat greens and fruits, dust with calcium powder.

Skink

Scientific Name: Scincidae

Feeding: (con't)

- Food should be provided in moderation.
- Do not feed sugary or fattening foods.



Special Note for the Sandfish Skink:

This lizard has a hard time catching fast moving insects, such as crickets. They do better being fed wax worms and mealworms. You can place them on top of the sand or just under the surface. These skinks love to dig for them.

Special Note on the Schneider's Skink:

This skink has been known to eat small fish placed in a clean water dish. Yours may not take to it, but it's worth a try. These are one of the skink species that will eat fruits and veggies when offered.

Lighting and Humidity:

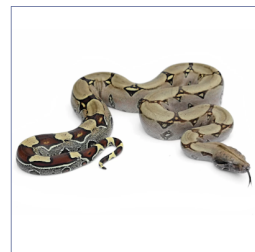
Most skinks have the same basic needs and requirements when it comes to temperature, humidity and UVB needs.

- An ambient temperature of eighty-to-eighty-five degrees °F.
- Use one or more thermometers for an accurate reading.
 - o Don't GUESS when it comes to heating your terrarium.
- Every skink will appreciate an under-tank heating pad in addition to a heat lamp.
 - Provide a large enough tank for the skink to escape from the heat.

Skink

Scientific Name: Scincidae

Lighting and Humidity: (con't)



- Humidity can range from fifty-to-eighty percent.
- Its suggested to mist their cage, at least once, in the morning.
- Use a hygrometer to measure humidity rate.
- If you have a humidity box, keep the moss moist at all times.
 - o Replace moss once or twice a week
- A UVB bulb with a tropical rating of five is required and sufficient for most species.
 - o UVB bulb has to be replaced every ten-to-twelve months.
 - o Skink has to be within six-to-eight inches of this bulb for full benefit.

Special Note on the Sandfish Skink:

- Loves a HOT basking area of up to one-hundred-twenty-five °F.
- Ambient temperature should be in the eighties.
- Help your pet get closer to the heat source using slate rock pieces that are stacked.
 - o Be sure to securely bond these rocks together using a safe bonding agent.

Special Note on the Crocodile Skink:

- Loves a humid tank, but dislikes a hot basking area.
- Basking area should be no hotter than eighty-six °F
- Their cool end should be seventy-to-seventy five degrees that builds up to that eight-six °F warmer end,
- Humidity level should be maintained at around sixty-to-one-hundred percent.

Skink

Scientific Name: Scincidae

Special Note on the Schneider's Skink:

This skink is from a dryer region. The humidity should only be twenty-to-thirty-percent.



Handling:

Skinks are very fast and often skittish lizards. They like to feel secure in their environment, so handling can be scary. Certain skinks tame down easier than others, but all of them take time, care, and patience to be handleable. The Red Sided Skink, Schneider's Skink, and the Blue Tongue Skink are a few that are easier to tame with frequent handling.

Breeding:

Some skinks are egg layers and some have live birth. If looking to breed your skink, do some research on your individual type to ensure you have the knowledge and resources to be successful.

Petware House