



BLUE TONGUED SKINK

(TILIQUA GIGAS)

ANIMAL FACTS

WILD LOCALITY:

Australia & Surrounding Islands (including Indonesia)

HABITAT:

Forests, Savannas, Wetlands, Coastal Areas, & Scrublands

LIFESTYLE:

Terrestrial (ground-dwelling)

DIET:

Invertebrates, Small Mammals, Eggs, Fruits, Vegetation, & Carrion (omnivore)

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

15-30 years in the care of humans (less in the wild)

ADULT SIZE:

~ 15-20" & 400-500g

ACTIVITY:

Diurnal (most active during the day)

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Least Concern

THREATS:

Habitat Loss & Importation

FUN FACTS:

Blue Tongued Skinks are very unique lizards with strange body features. Their belly drags the ground, & their tiny legs are so small, they nearly go unnoticed. This helps them to mimic another animal in order to stay safe. If feeling threatened, the Blue Tongued Skink puts on quite the show: they burry their small limbs in the grass, sand, or soil, writhe around, open their mouth wide, stick out their bright blue tongue, & hiss loudly! This display tells other animals, "leave me alone, I'm a scary snake!" Many species of snakes in Australasia, where the Blue Tongued Skink lives, are very dangerous, so this tactic often helps them to avoid being eaten by predators.