



## Fire Skink *Riopa fernandi*

# Care Sheet

### Average Size

8 - 12 inches long

### Average Lifespan

10 – 15 years

### Diet

Fire Skinks are strict insectivores. Offer a variety of live insects including crickets, mealworms, waxworms, and cockroach nymphs.

### Feeding

Feed babies daily. Adults could also eat daily, although they will likely eat less than a baby. Dust food with calcium powder daily & a multivitamin once a week. Feed them the amount they will eat in 10 minutes.

### Housing

**Habitat** - Fire Skinks are from Guinea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola and Uganda. They are ground dwellers and love to hide. Provide plenty of hiding places along with flat basking surfaces. Some keepers provide a humidity box to aid in shedding. Fire Skinks may be kept alone or in pairs. If housed together Fire Skinks should be of similar size to avoid injury. Never house two males together in the same tank. Two females generally get along well. A male and female will likely breed if housed together.

**Size** - An adult must have a minimum cage size of 30" Long x 12" Deep x 12" High, although many keepers prefer a larger cage.

**Substrate** - Fire Skinks love to dig and burrow. To accommodate this behavior, an absorbent loose substrate is desired. Peat moss or coconut fiber are preferred. Provide 3-6 inches of substrate.

**Temperature** - A Fire Skink's basking spot should be 90°- 95°F. The cool end of the tank can be as cool as 70°F.

**Humidity** - Mist the enclosure once daily to help with humidity. Humidity levels should be between 40% - 60% if the soil remains humid.

**Watering** - Provide a bowl of fresh drinking water at all times.

**Lighting** - Since this is a diurnal species, it requires two light bulbs. One is the heat lamp which also emits UVA. The second is a UVB lamp. The UVB lamp will specifically say UVB on the box. If the box doesn't say UVB, it's not UVB.

**Plant and Fish bulbs are not UVB bulbs.**



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