

# Fire Skink

*Riopa fernandi*

## CARE SHEET



www.thetdi.com

**Average Size** 8 - 12 inches long      **Average Life Span** 10 – 15 years

**Diet** Fire Skinks are strict insectivores. Offer a variety of live insects including crickets, mealworms, waxworms, and cockroach nymphs. Some lizards will eat store bought food such as freeze dried crickets and worms. Since this food source doesn't move, not all lizards will acknowledge its presence.

**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** Fire Skinks may be kept alone or in pairs. 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 Skink's love to dig and burrow. To accommodate this behavior, substrates such as ZooMed's Eco Earth are preferred. Eco Earth provides a fluffy substrate easy for burrowing and cleaning. Provide 3-6 inches of substrate.

**Habitat** - Fire Skink's are from Guinea, East of Zaire, 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.

**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.

**Watering** - Provide a bowl of fresh drinking water at all times. Misting the enclosure once daily to help with humidity.

**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, its not UVB.

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