



# Long Tail Lizard

*Takydromas sexlineatus*

## Care Sheet

**Caging Needed:** A minimum of a 15 gallon tank is recommended for a single long tailed lizard, with an additional five gallons for each additional lizard (i.e. 20 gallon tank for two lizards). Since long tailed lizards are so active, the larger the tank the better. A screen top should be used but it must be secure to keep these agile lizards from escaping.

**Bedding and Water Needs:** Coconut fiber, peat moss, bark chips, sterilized soil, and paper towels are all considered to be suitable bedding for Long Tail Lizards. These materials hold in moisture well and will keep the humidity up. Sand or wood chips are not recommended due to accidental ingestion and impaction concerns. Within the cage, you should provide a variety of branches, cork bark, plants (live or silk), and vines to provide lots of hiding spots and climbing space. A shallow water dish should also be provided for clean, fresh water.

**Temperature & Humidity:** During the day you need to provide your long tailed lizard with a basking spot of 90-95 degrees Fahrenheit and an ambient temperature from 75 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit to provide a proper thermal gradient. At night, temperatures can drop down to around 65-70 degrees Fahrenheit, but make sure they do not get too low or you may cause your lizard to become sick, stop eating, or lethargic. The tanks should stay at about 70% humidity.

**Lighting:** Because Long Tail lizards are awake during the day it is important to use a full spectrum bulb. Ceramic emitters, under the tank heat mat, and incandescent bulbs can be used to achieve proper temperatures. Heat rocks are not recommended.

**Diet:** Crickets, wax worms, mealworms, utter worms, red wigglers, and earthworms can all be fed to long tailed lizards. Always dust your insects with calcium powder to keep your lizard healthy.

**Average size:** 6-8 inches long with  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the length being the tail

**Life Span:** 5+ years

