

Long-Tailed Lizard

(*Takydromus sexlineatus*)

Adult Size	8-12 inches (mostly tail)	Life Span	5+ years
Male/Female Differences	Check for hemipenial bulges where the abdomen meets the tail. Female grass lizards lack these structures. Examine the one or two distinct bumps, or femoral pores, on the underside of each thigh near the base of the tail. The pores are darker in color on females than the surrounding tissue is in males.		
Compatibility	These lizards are one of the few species of reptile which can be housed with <i>other</i> species of reptile (Anoles, green tree frogs, barking tree frogs, etc...). If housing multiple animals in the same cage make sure to provide 10 gallons per 1 lizard, with plenty of hiding spaces. Long-tailed lizards are voracious eaters and can sometimes bully out smaller lizards come feeding time. Observe and ensure each animal is getting their daily nutrients.		
Origin	Savannahs of India, China, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, the Malaysian Peninsula, and Indonesia.		
Climate	Warm and slightly humid. Grasslands.		
Day Cycle	Diurnal (Awake during the day).		
Temperature	75-80 degrees is most preferred - cooling down to 70 degrees at nighttime. Avoid overheating (heat bulbs are a large culprit here) as long-tailed lizards dry out quickly. Depending on your own climate you may only need a mild heat source, or none at all.		
Lighting	While skipping out on a UVB light can save some money, it is always recommended to use a high quality UVA/UVB light to stimulate appetite and for emotional health. This bulb will ensure proper absorption of calcium/vitamin D3 which will prevent potential MBD. (Metabolic bone disease)		
Humidity	Relative humidity should be kept at 60-70%. Keep humid with twice a day misting and a shallow water bowl for ambient moisture. Avoid wet or soggy conditions - good ventilation will aid in a healthy spectrum of dry to damp.		
Habitat/Territory	These lizards are native to heavily planted savannah regions. Vines, dense foliage, and tree branches should be provided in a long-tailed lizard cage. They are avid climbers and prefer a variety of surfaces to maneuver on.		
Substrate/Bedding	A green grass mat may be the easiest to handle in terms of cleaning, but		

	coconut fiber or vermiculite can also be used as an acceptable substrate.
Hiding Place/Den	Provide plenty of plants – either artificial or real – for long-tailed lizards need defined hiding spaces.
Cage Type	Ten gallon aquariums or critter cages with screen tops work well for long-tailed lizards. Use care when removing the screen top to prevent escaping. A taller cage is better than a wider one as these lizards will utilize the vertical space well. As is the case with most animal setups, providing the largest cage possible is always best.
Diet	Insectivore
Supplements	One should use vitamin and calcium powder on insects - make sure to avoid overdosing.
Diet Precautions	Long-tailed lizards have simple diet requirements. Be careful if feeding hard shelled insects (crickets, mealworms, superworms) as too many can lead to impaction. Obesity is also a common health concern when feeding bugs - avoid over feeding and make sure a diverse diet is provided.
Feeding	A varied live insect diet is essential to healthy reptile keeping. Mealworms, waxworms, small crickets and dubia roaches are all viable diet variations.
Water Source	Long-tailed lizards primarily get their water from water droplets running down the cage wall, after a misting. While they may not drink from one, a shallow water dish should also be provided for additional humidity.
Grooming	To maintain proper skin health, provide a well ventilated cage with a humidity ranging from damp to dry. Failed sheds can quickly turn into infection, leading to a loss of digits. Humidity is the key for proper long-tailed lizard shedding/grooming.
Oral and Foot Care	Shed skin can stick on the toes, restricting blood flow and causing the toes to die and fall off. Soak the long-tailed lizard in a shallow water dish or damp paper towel for an hour. One should be able to remove any failed sheds with tweezers afterwards.
Proper Handling	Long-tailed lizards are not keen on being handled. Easily frightened and stressed, this is one pet that is better off being appreciated for its beauty inside of the cage. Lots of lizard species can drop their tail if frightened or grabbed by it. Avoid holding your lizard by the tail to avoid it breaking off.
Habitat Maintenance	Spot clean soiled areas and plants. Every few weeks replace substrate to prevent mold and bacteria from growing.
Health Concerns	The most common health concern with long-tailed lizards is obesity. This can be avoided with a careful diet. MBD and Calcium deficiency, while not as common, are still of concern. Twitching, "soft jaw", or a wavy tail can all be signs that a long-tailed lizard is not being properly cared for, and should be taken to a veterinarian immediately. Bacterial infections are the result of too high humidity and dehydration is the result of too little. Your cage should never be bone dry, or saturated wet with water.