



Video transcript

Blue tongue lizard housing

So, reptiles are cold blooded, so they need a heat source to heat up and get going for the day. So, if they're out in the wild the heat source is the Sun. You'll often see them out in the Sun often on a rock because rocks heat up quite well or even in the middle of the road. So, if you're driving along you'll often see Blue Tongues on the road because it's black and it draws in the heat quite quickly. It heats them up nice and quickly so they can get going for the day as quick as possible. If it's in captivity we can recreate heat in some way to get them going for the day. So, set up a space or enclosure for your Blue Tongue. It can start with something like a three foot fish tank or you could use an indoor pit or an outdoor pit. There's a wide variety of what you could utilise around your house or backyard to set up a lizard. It can be quite simple in the set up in the way that you use newspaper and a variety of maybe barks. They really do like to hide. So, giving them bark or even planks of wood so that they can climb under is fantastic, right up to using something like leaf litter that you can find around the place from trees. You could use pre-bought barks or mulches that they are quite good to use as long as they don't really have any toxins or things in them. You want them to be as natural as possible for the animal so that they can eat and forage properly. What's most important for these little guys is some sort of heat source. So, it's as simple as a light bulb, quite a large light bulb, maybe a 160 watt globe that they could bask under. You can go a little bit fancier and buy the red ones which don't emit so much light and they're not so bright in the environment especially if you're living with them or studying with them. And you want it close to the ground or fairly close to the ground so as they're not to touch it and get burned but they're able to access it whenever they need to. You want a heat gradient so you want one end to be quite warm, so maybe about 30 degrees where the heat basking spot is and you want him to get down to maybe a low twenty so he has the choice whether he wants to be warm or cold. You don't want the heat lamp to be going all day, so you want it to switch off of a night. You want to set a timer, so maybe 8:30 to 4:30 or 5:30 but you'll need a little bit of adjusting during the seasons and also during the environments. It might change that if it's hotter or colder in your region. Maintenance for your Blue Tongue enclosure really depends on what you're using as the base or the substrate of your enclosure. So, if you're using the leaf mulch or some sort of a mulch, just a spot pick every couple of days just to pull the faeces out, pull any dead crickets out, any leftover food out. Just make sure that there's nothing that's going to get a little bit smelly in the exhibit. And you want to make sure that the water bowl is cleaned every day. So, it also means giving it a little wipe over. You don't want anything growing in the water bowl. If you're using something like maybe newspaper as a substrate or as the base of your exhibit you'd want to change it maybe two times a week because it can get quite dirty from faeces and things like that.