

# Long-tailed Grass Lizard

*Takydromus sexlineatus*



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Long-tailed grass lizards are from the forests of Southeast Asia. They have greenish-brown bodies with white-bordered brown stripes, and tails that are often longer than their bodies. These lizards are quick, energetic, and make highly interesting pets.



### Is a long-tailed grass lizard the right companion animal for you?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

- I can accommodate a habitat requiring an electrical heat source.
- I want a pet that doesn't need to be cuddled or touched.
- I feel comfortable feeding live food to a lizard.
- I can commit to providing proper care for a lizard.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this companion animal.

If you answered "Yes" to these statements, a long-tailed grass lizard may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a long-tailed grass lizard and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

**Average Size** Up to 12 inches long

**Life Span** 5+ years with proper care

**Diet** Provide a variety of insects, including gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets, mealworms, waxworms, superworms, butterworms

**Feeding** Feed adults every other day; juveniles daily; provide a multiple vitamin/mineral supplement once or twice a week and calcium daily

**Housing** Due to the varied sizes and growth rates of reptiles, and their individualized needs, we recommend you consult your qualified reptile veterinarian and a book on this species to determine it's specific housing requirements

Size – Appropriate size and shape habitat for an adult lizard to accommodate normal behaviors and exercise

Substrate – Use pelleted, mulch-type or reptile bark

Habitat – Keep habitat at 80% humidity by misting several times a day; provide perching and hiding areas with limbs and cork bark

Temperature – Temperature gradient is needed (95° F. for the warm end and 75° F. for the cool end, with nighttime temperature at 70° F); use an incandescent light or ceramic heater as the primary heat source

Lighting – Provide needed UVB rays with full spectrum fluorescent light for 10 to 12 hours a day; incandescent bulb is needed for basking area if not using a ceramic heater

Water – Provide a constant supply of clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water in a shallow bowl that cannot be tipped over

Do not house different species of reptiles together

### Recommended Supplies

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat with secure lid     | <input type="checkbox"/> Full spectrum fluorescent light      | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basking rock or log         | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin/calcium supplement           | <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food and water bowls        | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-toxic plants, branches           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mist bottle    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about tropical lizards | <input type="checkbox"/> Incandescent light or ceramic heater | <input type="checkbox"/> Humidity gauge |

# Long-tailed Grass Lizard

*Takydromus sexlineatus*



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

### Normal Behavior and Interaction

Never grab lizards by their tail, as some may detach the tail if pulled  
Most will become tame with regular handling  
Long tailed lizards are diurnal, meaning they are active during the day

### Habitat Maintenance

Thoroughly clean the tank at least once a week: set lizard aside in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach; add clean substrate

### Grooming and Hygiene

Always wash your hands before and after touching your lizard or habitat contents to help prevent *Salmonella* and other infectious diseases  
Lizards regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is appropriate to allow proper shedding

### Signs of a Healthy Animal

- Active and alert
- Healthy skin
- Clear eyes
- Eats regularly
- Clear nose and vent
- Body and tail are rounded and full

### Common Health Issues

Health Issue (alpha)	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Gastro-intestinal Disease	Runny stools, caked or smeared stool around the vent area, and loss of appetite caused by bacterial or parasitic infection.	Consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
Metabolic Bone/Vitamin Deficiency	Inability to absorb calcium due to insufficient UVB light. If untreated, can lead to a disorder characterized by deformities and softened bones. Swollen limbs and lethargy.	Provide ample UVB lighting and consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
Respiratory Disease	Labored breathing, runny nose, swollen eyes. Can be caused by temperatures that are too cold.	Ensure proper lighting, water, and basking conditions. If condition persists, consult your veterinarian.

### Red Flags

- Weight loss or decreased appetite
- Swelling
- Bumps, sores, or abrasions on skin
- Paralysis of limbs or tail
- Mucus in mouth or nose
- Lethargy
- Labored breathing
- Abnormal feces

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.

### Sources

*Lizard Care from A to Z* by Richard D. Bartlett & Patricia Pope Bartlett  
*Lizard Keeper's Handbook* by Philippe De Vosjoli

**Note:** The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.