



## Long tailed Grass Lizard *Takydromus sexlineatus*

---

- Long tailed grass lizards are a small, arboreal, diurnal species of lizard indigenous to the forests, savannahs, and woodlands of southern and Southeastern Asia.
- The most obvious feature of these lizards are their very long tails, which can be as much as three times their snout to vent (SVL) length. They have a slender, elongated body with a ground color of olive brown to brown with a pointed snout, two or three pale yellowish or whitish dorsal stripes, and a paler yellow underside.
- Long tailed grass lizards may attain longevity of 5 years or slightly more under the proper care.

### **Size**

Long tailed grass lizards reach up to 10” to 12” in length.

### **Housing**

Provide a sturdy and secure enclosure that is escape proof. Grass lizards are active and arboreal lizards, so provide a 20-30 gallon tall, well ventilated terrarium or vivarium. Slightly dampened peat moss, untreated soil, bark substrates, or sphagnum moss can be utilized for a substrate. Additional furnishings for basking, climbing, and seeking refuge are also important components to a grass lizard setup, and can include natural or artificial foliage, rocks, vines, or branches. For water, these lizards can be misted periodically (which is how these lizards derive most of their hydration) or can be provided a large shallow water dish that can be cleaned and replaced regularly.

Additional heating and lighting is also necessary to maintain these active lizards. Create a sufficient day/night thermal gradient with full spectrum UV lighting with ambient temperatures in 85-90 degree F range for a basking spot during the day, 75-80 degree F ambient temperatures, and mid 60-mid 70 degrees F at night.

### **Feeding/Diet**

Long tailed grass lizards are primarily insectivorous in the wild and in captivity, feeding on insects and other small invertebrates. In captivity, feeder insects such as small roaches, crickets, mealworms, or waxworms are all acceptable for these lizards. Feed 2-3 times weekly in most instances. Grass lizards also require additional gutloading of feeder insects and/or Calcium and vitamin D3 supplementation for optimal nutrition.

### **Handling**

Long tailed grass lizards are active and spirited lizards that may tolerate some levels of handling, but prolonged handling may cause stress to these animals. These lizards can also drop their tails if handled roughly as well. Grass lizard smay initially be skittish, but can become quite bold and acclimated to their keeper’s presence for small lizards, often even being able to be hand fed.

\*\*Also be sure to practice basic cleanliness and hygiene associated with proper husbandry after touching or handling any animals or animal enclosures to prevent the possibility of contracting salmonellosis or any other zoonotic pathogens\*\*