**Blue Tongued Skink**

**Vocabulary:** omnivore defense mechanism

**Native to:** Australia and Indonesia

**Life span:** In the wild between 10 to 12 years in Captivity up to 20 yrs

**Predators:** large birds, snakes, cats, dogs, dingos

**Prey:** omnivores including insects, snails, flowers, fruits and berries

**Facts:**

* Found in woodland areas
* One of the larger species of skink can reach about 11 to 12 inches in length when full grown
* Diurnal, and spend most of their days foraging on the forest floor for food
* Take shelter at night in root systems, in logs, and ground debris
* Shed their skin about every 6 weeks

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Puff up in posture
* Hiss
* Bite
* The color of his tongue can signal that he is sick to predators, which would in turn make them sick

**Reproduction:**

* Bear live young in egg “sacks” which rupture as soon as they are born
* 5-25 young per litter
* Babies are 4 inches long when born

**Handling Tips:**

Indigo is years old, and we do not know her/his gender as DNA testing would be required. He is extremely easy to handle. His weight should be supported by your hands, and he may want to climb around on your arms, chest. Just be careful not to let him fall.