



Amazing Animals Fact sheets

Lizards

There are over 3000 lizard species distributed throughout the world, and because they are reptiles the majority are found in warmer climates. They range in sizes from 6cm up to 3m long! Lizards have scaly skin that is shed throughout the year, often in irregular patches. Some members of the lizard family are carnivorous (meat only), however there are others that are herbivorous (plants only) or omnivorous (plants and meat).



Matilda

Matilda is one of our eight shingleback's and is identified easily because he is completely black. Matilda is part of our Wandering Wildlife program to teach our guests about these amazing lizards. Shingleback's favourite treat is fresh strawberries.

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Shingleback Lizard

Habitat

Shingle-back lizards are found in the southern half of Australia, except for eastern and south-eastern coastal areas. It inhabits coastal heaths, dry sclerophyll forests, mallee scrub and Spinifex-dominated sandy deserts. They are diurnal and shelter under fallen timber, leaf litter, and grasses when not active.

Diet

Shingle-back lizards are primarily herbivorous living on a diet of flowers, berries and succulent leaves, however they will opportunistically consume insects and carrion.

Breeding

Shingle-back lizards are highly monogamous, seeking out the same partner year after year. When breeding begins in spring, the male will seek out the female by the scent trails she leaves behind. Although the female can have one to four live young, which are rather large in comparison to mum (combined weight around 1/3 of her body weight), on average she will give birth to only two.

Australia Zoo Shingleback Lizard profiles