



Western New York Herpetological Society

www.wnyherp.org

Common Name: Curly Tail Lizard

Latin name *Leiocephalux sp. Tropicurus sp*

Native to: Peru, the Caribbean, and Cuba

Size: 4-7 inches

Life span: 5-8 years

General appearance: There are about 20 species that are covered in this group. Their name comes from the manner in which they rapidly twitch their tail. In general, they have a robust body with several different colors. Some species have a dorsal crest.

Housing requirements:

Enclosure: A minimum of a 15-gallon enclosure with a secure lid. Multiple climbing branches and a shelter for hiding should be provided.

Temperature: Daytime temperature should be maintained between 80°- 85°F. The basking area should be maintained between 88°-90°F. Nighttime temperatures should be maintained between 75°-77°F.

Heat/Light: UVB lighting should be provided between 8-12 hours a day. The use of a timer can aid in proper lighting cycle. Ceramic emitters and infrared night-light can be used to maintain proper temperature. Hot rocks are not recommended.

Substrate: Reptibark®, Bed a Beast®, sphagnum moss, also mixing tropical play sand and peat moss are all suitable substrates for these lizards.

Environment: Humidity should be maintained at 30%- 55% pending on the species.

Diet: These lizards will eat crickets, waxworms, and mealworms. They will also enjoy small pieces of green leaf lettuce and sweet fruit in a shallow dish. Fresh water should also be provided.

Maintenance: The enclosure should be spot cleaned daily. A thorough cleaning should be performed on a regular basis. A 5% bleach solution is an excellent disinfectant. Be sure to thoroughly rinse the enclosure before replacing the substrate and placing the lizard back in the enclosure. Hand washing after handling the lizard or any cage furnishings is essential.

Other references or recommended reading:

California Zoological Supply 1996 *Curly tail Lizard* Available on-line:

<http://www.calzoo.com/html/curlytail.html>

Kaplan, Melissa. 2001 *Curly-Tailed Lizard* Available Online:

<http://www.anapsid.org/curlytailed.html>

Shaffer, Faith. 1996-1998 *Curly Stew and Curly Sue* Available on-line:

<http://www.brazosport.cc.tx.us/~fshaffer/curly.html>

Petsmart. *Curly-tailed Lizard* Available Online:

http://www.petsmart.com/articles/article_3824.shtml