

# Turtles



## *Eastern Long-necked Turtle - Chelodina longicollis*

The Eastern Long-necked Turtle is found throughout Canberra and surrounding areas. They live in dams and lakes, with reeds and grasses at the edge to hide, and they like sun-baking on rocks.

In the wild, Long-necked Turtles mainly eat water insects, grasshoppers, earthworms, yabbies, fish and carrion.

### *Look out! for them.*

**Autumn:** A lot of turtles cross roads in the rain looking for places to hibernate. *Look out!* for them.



Photos by Geoff Robertson, ACTHA

*Please don't put a sick turtle in water or try to give it food: they won't eat and could drown.*

If they are not injured, put them off to the side of road in the direction they were going.

If the turtle is injured, then put it in a box with newspaper or a towel and take it to the RSPCA or a vet (see box below right).

**Winter:** They should all be asleep, resting for a while. If you find one walking around then something is wrong.

**Spring:** Turtles usually start to wake-up in September and start to wander around looking for dams and food. *Look out!* for them, but leave them alone.

**Summer:** They should be happy where they live. If you find one that is walking around and looks really dry, then find a nice, safe water place and let it go.

**Injured wild turtles can be taken to:**  
RSPCA Wildlife, Kirkpatrick St,  
Weston.

Phone 9am-5pm      **6287 8113**

Phone after hours      **0413 495 031**

# Lizards



Photo by Mandy Conway, ACTHA

## Common or Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard - *Tiliqua scincoides*

The Blue-tongued Lizard lives in hollow logs, in leaf litter and sometimes in pipes.

- They mainly eat snails, insects, dandelions and clover.

- Blue-tongued Lizards have smooth scales with stripes that are either goldish and black, or grey and black.
- They have 8-14 live babies around February or March who are completely independent after birth.  
**Look out!** for them and try to make sure cats and dogs don't hurt them.

*Did you know? that there is a Blue-tongued Lizard in just about everyone's garden.*

## Shingleback (or Bobtail or Pinecone or Sleepy) Lizard - *Tiliqua rugosa*

The Shingleback Lizard lives mainly in parks and bushland.

- They have large pinecone looking scales, a large triangular head and their tail looks like their head. This is to fool predators.
- They usually have 2 live young in late Spring, with the litter weight being 40% of mum. Phew!
- Their colour varies from black, in and around Canberra, to shades of brown with cream flecks north-east/west of this region.



Photo by Margaret Ning, ACTHA

*Did you know? that Shinglebacks pair up for life, and unlike Blue-tongued Lizards their tails don't grow back if something happens to it.*





# More lizards...

## Cunningham Skink - *Egernia cunninghami*



Photo by Joe McAuliffe, ACTHA

They live in small colonies in the rock crevices of rocky outcrops, or under rock slabs.

- The Cunningham Skink has a body covered in thick, sharp scales.
- Juveniles are carnivorous, whereas adults eat mostly native berries, soft leaves and shoots, and some insects, worms and snails.

*Did you know?* that Cunningham Skinks quickly dash between rocks when disturbed and wedge themselves in tightly.



Photo by Lee Newton, RSPCA

## Blotched Blue-tongued Lizard - *Tiliqua nigrolutea*

The Blotched Blue-tongued Lizard is sometimes found around the ACT. They look like our Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard

only they are bigger and have pink/red colour blotches on their body.

### Garden skinks

There are lots of small garden skinks in Canberra. They are secretive and hard to find, but if you sit really still near a garden bed full of small plants you may see them dart in and out.

### *Look out! for them.*

**Autumn:** Lizards look for places to hibernate, but because the weather is cooler they are slower. This means cats and dogs sometimes attack them. *Look out!* for them.

**Winter:** They should all be asleep, resting for a while. If you find one walking around, or you have accidentally dug them up in the garden, then you should take it to someone (see box below left).

**Spring:** Lizards usually start to wake-up in September and start to wander around looking for food and establishing territories.

*Look out!* for them, but leave them alone.

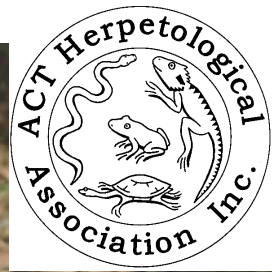
**Summer:** When it is hot they sometimes need water and extra food. *Look out!* for them around cat and dog bowls.

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Phone after hours      **0413 495 031**

# Dragons



## Eastern Bearded Dragon - *Pogona barbata*

- They have rough scales, a large triangular head and a 'beard' of spines across the throat.
- Bearded Dragons love insects like crickets and cockroaches, and fruits and flowers.



Photo by Joe McAuliffe, ACTHA

*Did you know? that the inside of the Eastern Bearded Dragon's mouth is bright yellow, and that they lay eggs.*

- Their tail is long and slim. So are their legs and claws, which are designed for climbing.
- They spend a lot of their time on tree trunks and fence posts.

## Eastern Water Dragon - *Physignathus lesueurii*

- The Water Dragon lives along many of Canberra's waterways and can be easily seen during the warmer months at the National Botanic Gardens.
- They can change their colour according to the temperature and their surroundings.
- They are opportunistic feeders that lie in wait for insects such as crickets, cockroaches, grasshoppers, moths and slaters.



Photo by Joe McAuliffe, ACTHA

*Did you know? that 80% of a Water Dragon's length is their tail.*

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Phone after hours      **0413 495 031**