

Improving Husbandry for Kenyan Zebra Skinks in Captivity

By Abigail J. Barton 29th August 2025



Abstract

Kenyan Zebra Skinks are becoming popular pets, but there isn't much reliable information on how to care for them. This project looks at what they need to stay healthy and happy by combining advice from keepers, wild observations, and online surveys. The result is a simple care guide that focuses on their social behavior, diet, and enclosure needs so they can thrive in captivity.

Abstract	1
Introduction	2
5 Freedoms of Animal Welfare	2
Aims	2
Methods	3
Zebra skinks in the wild	3
Existing Care Information Online	3
Scientific Papers	3
Hobby Youtube Videos	4
Care Guides from the Internet	5
Zebra Skinks at the Reptile Academy	6
Zebra Skinks in Captivity	6
Recommendations For Husbandry in Captivity	7
Conclusion	10
Appendix A - Interview with Kenyan national who has seen the animals in the wild.	11
Appendix B - Interview with Jake Weeks, Tutor and Head Ranger at the Reptile Academy	13
Appendix C - Questionnaire Results	16

Introduction

The Kenyan Zebra Skink (*Trachylepis dichroma*) sometimes called the Two-Coloured Skink is a medium sized species of skink found in Kenya and Tanzania.

I'm doing this project because there is very little information about Kenyan Zebra Skinks available online, and they're becoming a more popular pet.

The question I'd like to answer is:

As there is not very much information on keeping Zebra Skinks, using the 5 freedoms of Animal Welfare, how can we improve husbandry for captive Zebra Skinks?

5 Freedoms of Animal Welfare

The 5 freedoms of animal welfare are very important in keeping any animal safe and healthy. They come from UK law originally in 1978 and updated in 1988 and 1993 by the Farm Animal Welfare Council¹ for the care of agricultural animals and should be used in the care of all animals.

The freedoms are defined by the RSPCA² as:

1. *Freedom from hunger and thirst: by ready access to fresh*

¹ <https://edepot.wur.nl/134980>

water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

2. *Freedom from discomfort: by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.*
3. *Freedom from pain, injury or disease: by prevention through rapid diagnosis and treatment.*
4. *Freedom to express normal behaviour: by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.*
5. *Freedom from fear and distress: by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering..*

As part of this research I want to apply these rules in creating a modern care guide for Zebra Skinks. Using modern husbandry techniques to give them a good standard of living in captivity.

Aims

I'd like to gain more information and build a caresheet for Kenyan Zebra Skinks to better suit their needs in captivity using the 5 Freedoms of Animal Welfare as a starting point.

Given the lack of information, standard reptile husbandry is being applied such as keeping animals individually, removing babies from adults and keeping them in dry environments.

² <https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-are-the-five-freedoms-of-animal-welfare/>

With my experiences at the reptile academy I think that these animals need to be kept in family groups or colonies and have a mix of dry and humid parts of the enclosure.

I would like to apply what I have learned in this project to produce an updated care guide for new owners.

Methods

I'll be doing observations and interviews with people who keep Kenyan Zebra Skinks and people who have seen them in the wild.

I'll also build questionnaires to send to people on a Zebra Skink owners group on FaceBook to gain more information on how people keep them or how people think they should be kept.

Zebra skinks in the wild

Kenyan Zebra Skinks are found in Southern Kenya, Northern Tanzania and Eastern Uganda. They can be found in savannahs, woodlands and can also be found within farmlands in any of the East African regions, basking, grazing, and hunting. They eat insects such as locusts, crickets and roaches.

I interviewed Josphat Sila, a Kenyan national who has observed them in the

wild, a summary of the interview transcript can be found in Appendix A

In the interview with Josphat, he mentions that Zebra Skinks have a peaceful nature, they're fast and alert as well, which helps them to avoid predators such as hyenas and lions. He said Zebra Skinks coexist well with other animals like antelopes. Also mentioning the population appears to be increasing, likely due to low hunting and a reduction in poaching of larger animals.

These Skinks are shy but non-aggressive though avoid cities and human-populated areas.

Josphat emphasized the lack of information on the internet and locally, relative to Kenyan Zebra Skinks and their captive care and natural habitat. He shared the story about the Skinks on his family's farm eating the locusts that were eating the bean crop. This would show that they can be beneficial to farmers as a natural pest control.

Existing Care Information Online

Scientific Papers

Using google scholar to search for existing scientific research returned almost no results. The first paper *Description of a new species of African skink of the genus Trachylepis* by RAINER GÜNTHER & ALISON

WHITING & AARON BAUER ³ dated 2005 is a study on the taxonomy of preserved animals in the *Institut für Systematische Zoologie (the former Zoologisches Museum Berlin), Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin*. This is a study of biology and does not deal with care of living animals.

The second paper titled *Presence of Trachylepis dichroma Günther, Whiting and Bauer, 2005 (Reptilia: Squamata: Scincidae) in Kenya* written by Domnick Victor Wasonga & Patrick K. Malonza⁴ at the Department of Herpetology, National Museums of Kenya. Unfortunately I could not access this as I had to pay to access it.

Hobby Youtube Videos

I found 2 videos on keeping Zebra Skinks, the first was by Zetty's Reptiles⁵

Zetty's Reptiles explains that Kenyan zebra skinks are a communal species, as well as very messy when it comes to their waterbowl. Males become aggressive when breeding.

When feeding the Kenyan Zebra Skinks it is ideal to keep an eye on them as they often fight over food.

Kenyan Zebra Skinks are very handleable when they are raised from a baby in captivity, where-as when you get an adult it often is not comfortable with being handled.

When they are used to being handled they are very handleable, and very curious about everything, they will sometimes willingly walk onto your hand if they wish to come out.

They will eat Roaches, Worms and other feeder insects.

Zebra Skinks need some humidity. They will dirty up their water bowl often with whatever substrate you use, it is recommended to change it a few times a day to keep it fresh.

The second video I found was by Clint's Reptiles⁶ and the information was very similar to Zetty's and Clint also mentioned that these should be housed as a colony.



³

https://www.zobodat.at/pdf/HER_18_1_2_0011-0024.pdf

⁴

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/21564574.2006.9635541>

⁵

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5t6UtSzTwbg>

⁶

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQneR6QQ2I0>

Care Guides from the Internet

	Ali's Menagerie ⁷	402 Exotics ⁸	Monkfield Reptile ⁹
How many house together	An individual (of this size enclosure, seen below)	Keeps Pairs together all year round. Will separate babies from parents.	No Information of communal living
Size of Viv	3ftx1.5ftx1.5ft	36"W x 18"D x 18"T	36 x 24 x 24"
Temperatures	Basking 32c, cool end 22c, night temperature above 15c	20w halogen pucks. BR30 65w incandescent FLOOD bulbs for basking	Basking(hot spot) 32-35c - Nighttime 18-21c
Diet	Primarily Insects but will also eat, fresh fruit, vegetables and plants, commercial diet mixes	Crickets. Vitamin/pollen dusted and gutloaded insects. Will accept commercial omnivore and gecko diets. Mineral dusted turkey balls.	Crickets, Locusts, Calci worms, Dubia Roaches
UV	12% UVB (UVI of 2-3)	T5HO 5.0 or 6% UVB	UVI: 2-3. T5 12% (Arcadia LumenIZE Pro and Arcadia Pro)
Humidity	Daytime 40% - Nighttime 70%	Nothing about Humidity	40%-60%
Life span	10 years (wild) - 15 years (captivity)	No information given	15 years
Difficulty of care	Easy	No information	Handling: Beginner
Substrate	Semi-Arid (style)	Tropical semi-arid	Arid EarthMix (Arid)

⁷ <https://www.alismenagerie.co.uk/care/reptiles-and-amphibians/kenyan-zebra-skink-care>

⁸ <https://402exotics.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/kenyan-zebra-skink-care.pdf>

⁹

<https://www.monkfieldreptile.com/SSP%20Applications/NetSuite%20Inc.%20-%20CMS/CMS/Site-2/files/NETSUITE%20NEWSLETTER/REPTILE%20LIST%20EMAILS/Zebra%20Skink/Zebr a%20Skink%20CARE%20SHEET%202022.pdf>

		substrate	
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Zebra Skinks at the Reptile Academy

I interviewed Jake on his experiences with Zebra Skinks at the Reptile Academy, a summary of this can be found in Appendix B.

Jake acquired his first Kenyan Zebra Skink in the summer of 2023 from a petshop in Southampton. It was a pregnant female. He then went on to succeed in breeding many more skinks.

He found that keeping the babies with the parents increases their survival rate from 25% to 75%. The babies will eat their parents and older sibling's poop for nutrients and beneficial gut bacteria; this is a process called *coprophagia*¹⁰.

Zebra Skinks are highly social and thrive in groups but occasionally a dominant individual may need to be isolated due to territorial and breeding competition.

Their enclosures are designed to replicate a natural and arid environment that they would have in the wild. Adding cork bark, tunnels for humidity, water bowls and basking spots enrich their environment and add security and appeal to the 5 freedoms of animal Welfare.

Jake says that some individuals have their own personalities, some are more bold and comfortable with handling, others may nip or avoid interaction. He expressed great enjoyment with keeping Zebra Skinks, their vibrant appearances, individual personalities, daytime activity and unusual traits have an interesting and entertaining aspect to reptile keeping.

He also noted that information on Kenyan Zebra Skinks is lacking, but is slowly improving as more enthusiasts keep them. He emphasized the importance of care practices, especially keeping skinks in compatible groups to improve welfare and survival rate. For population control the plan is maintaining bachelor groups and limiting female breeding.

Zebra Skinks in Captivity

I wrote a questionnaire using Google Forms for people who keep Zebra Skinks, this was posted on the global Kenyan Zebra Skink¹¹ group on Facebook . The full answers are in Appendix C but by using the automatically generated graphs I have highlighted some of the interesting results below.

¹⁰ <https://www.biologyonline.com/dictionary/coprophagia>

¹¹ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1544576682670147>

Kenyan Zebra Skinks

New Owners Guide



● Natural History

Kenyan Zebra Skinks -*Trachylepis dichroma*- Live in Kenya, and have been found around the neighbouring area of Tanzania and Uganda.

They can live up to 10 years in the wild, they are a broad lizard shaped lizard, and grow 10-15 inches in length.

As their name suggests, young Kenyan Zebra Skinks have white stripes going down and across their body, as they age, females keep these stripes and gets a pale-yellow chin and belly, males on the other hand have dark grey chins (almost like a hood), and they display bright orange-peachy colour on their sides and belly, their backs become dark grey and they lose the zebra stripes.

● Behaviour and habitat

Kenyan Zebra Skinks are a **Diurnal species** (active during the day),

and will often bask on a rock or log. Juvenile Zebra Skinks will climb, due to them being so small they stay with the parents and feed on their droppings as adult Zebra Skink droppings have enough nutrients to sustain the hatchlings until they can hunt for themselves.

Once a Zebra Skink becomes an adolescent it begins hunting for itself and no-longer needs the parents for food. They will however stay with the group, as these are a **communal species**.

As they become adults, males will start to fight over the females.

Studies have shown that some specimens have been found within woodland and grasslands, and living around termite mounds, this suggests that they may have used these mounds as humid hides and security.

● Enclosure

Due to recent studies, and the information known by far, re-creating the natural environment of a semi-arid environment is ideal. Making the enclosure bioactive is recommended.

An ideal enclosure would be at minimum 4' x 2' x 2' vivarium for a small colony of 3 or 4 Skinks but bigger is always better. Use a semi-arid substrate, as well as offering grasses and humid hides,

both rock and wood clutter, can create a natural and intriguing enclosure. It also makes for an eye-catching centerpiece to the living room or house. Plenty of clutter is ideal for visual barriers and hiding places. Several hides must be offered and distributed across the enclosure's temperature gradient.

A wooden vivarium or PVC is great for maintaining the stable high temperatures these Skinks need.



Bioactive enclosures have a dirt/fiber substrate with real plants and a clean up crew. The clean up crew in a bioactive enclosure consists of isopods and springtails, these arthropods eat fecal matter and uneaten food, and maintain a balanced ecosystem for the bioactive enclosure. Each bioactive enclosure must have suitable plants for the environment AND the reptile. Make sure to do plenty of research before planting up your vivarium.

● Lighting:

UV light **must** be supplied to these lizards as they come from open, sunny areas.

It will need a UV index of between 2 and 3. A 12% UVB kit is likely to offer the correct UVI.

An LED light is also a good option if you have real plants. Due to the plants being in an enclosure they need an additional light source to grow.

● Temperature & humidity:

They also experience high daytime temperatures in the wild, which should be replicated in captivity, these temperatures also stay similar all year around.

Daytime temperatures should be around 32 degrees Celsius (89.6 Fahrenheit), with lows of 19 degrees Celsius (66.2 Fahrenheit). Night time temperatures fall to 15 degrees Celsius (59 Fahrenheit) all year round.

One or more basking bulbs is recommended as they will bask during the day in the wild, each bulb must be connected to a dimming thermostat to keep control of the lights and temperatures, along with a UVB bulb on one side of the enclosure. The basking sight(s) should be maintained at 32 degrees Celsius.

Regular checks should be done to ensure the enclosure is the correct temperature and humidity, using a heat gun, digital thermometer, and a hygrometer can measure the humidity in the air.

Humidity should be maintained between 40% and 70% whether that is with humid hides or a humid side of the enclosure.

● Diet and feeding

The Kenyan Zebra Skinks's diet is mainly invertebrates such as Morioworms, Mealworms, Crickets, Locusts, Dubia Roaches, appropriate to the size of the skink at the time.

These invertebrates should be gut loaded (well fed) before feeding them to the Lizards to give better nutrients. Using supplements like powdered calcium is recommended for more calcium intake, this powder you can dust over their food.

They are not strictly insectivorous so a balanced diet of fresh foods is required, any reptile safe vegetable and plant can be offered, as well as a small amount of fruit (fruits are a minimal requirement due to their high sugar and moisture, this can lead to internal gut issues if fed regularly).

● Enrichment

Kenyan Zebra Skinks should have enough soil in their enclosure to dig through, they also enjoy dipping their toes in water and hunting. Giving them a live roach or locust to hunt throughout the day can stimulate them (make sure to take out the roach/locust if it has not been eaten by the end of the day). Giving them multiple elevation points, basking areas and hides will give them the opportunity to thermoregulate in a natural and safe way. Adults will rarely climb. Adding new hides or objects can be great enrichment as they love to investigate

Conclusion

Although the existing information is OK, the evidence shows that Zebra Skinks benefit from living in family groups, especially keeping babies with parents.

They also are shown to need access to higher humidity as well as hot, dry basking spots. They also need access to both dig and climb to provide enrichment that they would normally have in the wild.

I did not ask about numbers of males to females in groups and this is something that should be researched in the future so competition can be reduced and to establish a more natural family group.

Appendix A - Interview with Kenyan national who has seen the animals in the wild.

The following transcript summary was taken from an MS Teams call between Abbie and Josphat 12th August 2025

This call was recorded and Microsoft CoPilot provided the following meeting notes.

Generated by AI. Make sure to check for accuracy.

Meeting notes:

- **Research Project on Kenyan Zebra Skinks:** Abbie discussed a research project on Kenyan zebra skinks being conducted by a participant in the Reptile Academy in the UK. They mentioned the lack of information on these lizards and the excitement of the researcher upon learning that Josphat had seen them in the wild.
 - **Research Project:** Abbie mentioned that a participant in the Reptile Academy in the UK is conducting a research project on Kenyan Zebra Skinks. The project aims to gather more information about these lizards, which are becoming popular as pets but have limited available information.
 - **Information Scarcity:** Abbie highlighted the scarcity of information on Kenyan zebra skinks, noting that even the Wikipedia entry for these lizards is very brief, consisting of only one paragraph.
 - **Researcher's Excitement:** Abbie shared that the researcher was very excited to learn that Josphat had seen Kenyan Zebra Skinks in the wild, which could provide valuable insights for the research project.
- **Observations of Kenyan Zebra Skinks:** Josphat shared their observations of Kenyan Zebra Skinks in the wild, noting that they are usually seen in groups and have smooth, shiny skin. They also described the distinctive black and white colours of the Skinks.
 - **Group Behaviour:** Josphat observed that Kenyan Zebra Skinks are usually seen in groups rather than alone. This social behaviour is a notable characteristic of these lizards.
 - **Physical Description:** Josphat described the physical appearance of Kenyan Zebra Skinks, noting their smooth and shiny skin. They also highlighted the distinctive black and white colours, which are very clear and without spots.
 - **Colour Significance:** Josphat explained that the name "Zebra Skinks" comes from their distinctive black and white stripes, which are very prominent and give them their unique appearance.
- **Behaviour and Habitat of Zebras:** Josphat explained the behaviour and habitat of Zebra Skinks, mentioning their mornings, feeding habits, and the government-set drinking areas. They also discussed the differences in behaviour between Zebra Skinks and other wild animals.
 - **Mornings:** Josphat mentioned that Zebra Skinks are typically active in the mornings when the vegetation is softer and the temperature is cooler. This behaviour helps them to feed more efficiently.

- **Feeding Habits:** Zebra Skinks usually feed in the morning and evening. During lunchtime, they are often seen going to drinking areas set up by the government or natural rivers.
- **Drinking Areas:** Josphat noted that the government has established specific drinking areas for Zebra Skinks and other non-dangerous wild animals. These areas help ensure that the animals have access to water.
- **Behavioural Differences:** Josphat highlighted that Zebra Skinks are very alert and fast, which helps them avoid predators. They also have a unique ability to coexist peacefully with other animals like antelopes, unlike more territorial species.
- **Population Trends of Zebras:** Abbie inquired about the population trends of Zebras Skinks, and Josphat responded that the numbers are increasing due to the lack of poaching and the daily sightings of more Zebra skinks and other animals.
 - **Population Increase:** Josphat stated that the population of Zebra skinks is increasing in their area. This is attributed to the absence of poaching, as Zebra skinks are not commonly hunted like antelopes.
 - **Daily Sightings:** Josphat mentioned that they see more Zebra skinks and other animals on a daily basis, indicating a healthy and growing population of these animals.
- **Threats to Zebras:** Abbie asked about the threats to zebras, and Josphat mentioned hyenas, lions, and cheetahs as predators. They also noted that Zebra skinks are not prone to diseases and have a holistic survival on their natural diet.
 - **Predators:** Josphat identified buffaloes, hyenas, lions, and cheetahs as the main predators of Zebras Skinks. Hyenas, in particular, are known to attack Zebra.
 - **Disease Resistance:** Josphat noted that Zebra skinks are not prone to diseases, which contributes to their survival. Their natural diet is holistic and supports their health.
- **Zebra Skinks in Urban Areas:** Abbie asked if Zebra skinks wander into urban areas, and Josphat shared a story about a zebra skinks grazing on their farm. They mentioned that Zebra skinks migrate in search of food but do not go to cities due to the lack of vegetation.
 - **Farm Grazing:** Josphat shared an anecdote about Zebra Skinks grazing on their farm, eating locust and protecting crops like beans. This indicates that Zebra skinks sometimes venture into agricultural areas in search of food.
- **Interaction with Zebra Skinks:** Abbie inquired about Josphat's interaction with Zebra Skinks in the wild. Josphat described their experience at the Nairobi National Park, noting that Zebra Skinks are not very friendly but are peaceful and do not interact much with people.
 - **National Park Experience:** Josphat described their visits to the Nairobi National Park, where they observed Zebra Skinks in a controlled environment.
 - **Limited Interaction:** Josphat noted that Zebra Skinks do not interact much with people. They are not friendly and do not approach humans, unlike giraffes, which are more interactive.
 - **Peaceful Nature:** Despite being wild animals, Zebra Skinks are peaceful and tend to mind their own business while grazing. They do not exhibit aggressive behaviour towards humans.

- **Interesting Behaviour of Zebras:** Abbie asked about the most interesting behaviour observed in zebras. Josphat highlighted their alertness, peaceful nature, speed, and their ability to coexist with other animals like antelopes.
 - **Alertness:** Josphat highlighted the Zebras Skinks' keen sense of hearing, which makes them very alert to their surroundings. This alertness helps them detect and evade predators.
 - **Peaceful Coexistence:** Josphat noted that Zebra Skinks are peaceful animals that coexist well with other species, such as antelopes. They do not exhibit territorial behaviour and can share grazing areas.
 - **Speed:** Zebra Skinks are known for their speed, which is a crucial survival trait. They can quickly flee from potential threats, making them difficult targets for predators.
- **Knowledge on Zebra Care and Conservation:** Abbie asked about the availability of knowledge on Zebra Skink care and conservation. Josphat expressed that there is not enough local or online information, and the Kenya Wildlife Service needs to provide more comprehensive knowledge.
 - **Lack of Information:** Josphat expressed that there is insufficient local and online information about zebra care and conservation. This lack of knowledge hinders effective conservation efforts.
 - **Kenya Wildlife Service:** Josphat suggested that the Kenya Wildlife Service should provide more comprehensive information to educate the public and potential visitors about Zebra Skinks and other wildlife.
 - **Need for Education:** Josphat emphasised the importance of educating people about Zebra Skinks, including their behaviour, habitat, and conservation needs, to promote better understanding and protection of these animals.
- **Improving Treatment of Wild Animals:** Abbie asked how people could improve their treatment of wild animals. Josphat suggested treating wild animals like domestic animals, avoiding hunting them for trophies, and making it more affordable for people to visit national parks.

Appendix B - Interview with Jake Weeks, Tutor and Head Ranger at the Reptile Academy

The following transcript summary was taken from an MS Teams recorded interview between Abbie and Jake 2nd August 2025

This call was recorded and Microsoft CoPilot provided the following meeting notes.

Generated by AI. Make sure to check for accuracy.

Meeting notes:

- **Kenyan Zebra Skinks Acquisition:** Jake explained that the Kenyan zebra skinks were acquired in late summer 2023 from a pet shop in Southampton. The animals were initially stairways, and the female gave birth in captivity.
- **Current Number of Skinks:** Jake mentioned that they currently have a total of 26 Kenyan zebra skinks, including different groups and offspring.
- **Enclosure Setup:** Jake described the enclosure setup for the skinks, including size, temperature, humidity, and light. They try to replicate a natural arid environment with some humid spots and provide various enclosures based on the number of skinks in each group.
 - **Enclosure Sizes:** Jake explained that the enclosure sizes are proportional to the number of skinks in each social group. For example, an enclosure with 9 or 10 skinks is 6 feet long by 3 feet deep, while smaller groups have smaller enclosures.
 - **Environmental Conditions:** The enclosures replicate a natural arid environment with some humid spots. They include generous water bowls, hiding spots, and tunnelling spaces. UV lighting is provided using Arcadia T5 luminize, and heating is managed with incandescent bulbs and deep heat projectors.
- **Feeding and Diet:** Jake explained that the skinks are omnivores with a preference for invertebrates. They are fed a balanced diet of different types of invertebrates, whitefish, and king prawns, along with usual supplements.
- **Handling Behaviour:** Jake noted that the skinks have individual personalities, with some being bold and confident while others may nip or prefer not to be handled. They have not reached the point of free-roaming the skinks outside their enclosures.
 - **Individual Personalities:** Jake mentioned that each skink has its own personality. Some are bold and confident, happy to sit in hands with a bit of food, while others may nip or prefer not to be handled at all.
 - **Handling Practices:** They have not yet reached the point of allowing the skinks to free-roam outside their enclosures due to their speed and ability to get into tight spaces.
- **Breeding Success:** Jake shared that they have had success breeding the skinks in captivity, with a survival rate increase from 25% to 75% by keeping the babies with their parents and older siblings.
 - **Breeding Challenges:** Jake explained that the skinks are social species and need to live together to be happy and healthy. Separating them can lead to

digestive issues and death. Occasionally, a skink with a bigger personality may bully others, requiring separation.

- **Improved Survival Rates:** By breaking some established breeding rules and keeping the babies with their parents and older siblings, they increased the survival rate from 25% to 75%.
- **Enrichment and Habitat Features:** Jake mentioned that they provide enrichment and specific habitat features, such as generously sized water bowls, cork bark, hiding spots, and varied UV lighting. They also make the feeding process exciting by hand-feeding and scattering food.
- **Health Issues and Challenges:** Jake discussed health issues and challenges, including a skink that ate a plastic plant and the natural occurrence of deformities or stillborn offspring. They removed all plastic plants from the enclosures to prevent future incidents.
 - **Health Incidents:** Jake recounted an incident where a skink intentionally ate a plastic plant, leading to its death. As a result, they removed all plastic plants from the enclosures to prevent future incidents.
 - **Natural Challenges:** Jake mentioned that some offspring are stillborn or have deformities, which is natural. Some skinks may not survive due to lack of interest in food or basking spots, and others may develop back leg problems.
- **Monitoring Stress and Well-being:** Jake explained that they monitor the skinks' stress and well-being through daily observation, looking for signs such as hiding, basking, and social group dynamics. They separate any skinks that appear stressed or are being picked on.
- **Enjoyment of Keeping Skinks:** Jake expressed their enjoyment of keeping the skinks, highlighting their vibrant personalities, daytime activity, and social behaviour. They also appreciate that the skinks break some scientific rules by giving birth to live young and being social.
- **Population Control Plan:** Jake shared their plan for population control, which includes having multiple bachelor groups and limiting the females' reproduction. They may gift or exchange skinks they don't have room for to prevent being overrun.
- **Interesting Behaviour:** Jake described the most interesting behaviour observed in the skinks, which is the males' display to the females, involving a glitching, break-dancing movement.
- **Knowledge and Conservation:** Jake noted that local and online knowledge about the care and conservation of Kenyan zebra skinks is limited but slowly improving. The number of enthusiasts has grown, but there is still a lack of popularity and experience compared to other reptiles.
- **Improving Skink Care Practices:** Jake suggested that skinks should be kept in small, compatible social groups to benefit their mental well-being and increase the survival rate of babies. They advocate for changing reptile practices based on emerging science and experience.

Appendix C - Questionnaire Results

Which country do you live in?	United States	United Kingdom	United States	United States	United States	United States	United States	United States	Ireland {Republic}	Netherlands	Canada	United Kingdom
How many Zebra Skinks do you keep?	3	5	10	2	2	1	3	2	1	2	1	10
Do your Skinks co-habit with other Zebra Skinks?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
If Yes, what gender and how many do you keep together?	Multipal Females	Multipal Females	Single Female; Single Male	Single Female; Single Male	Single Female; Single Male		Multipal Females; Multipal Males	Single Female; Single Male	Single Male	Single Female; Single Male	Single Male	Multipal Females; Multipal Males

What do you feed your skinks?	Meal-worms;Dubia roaches, BSFL, hornworms, raw dog food	Crickets; Food Replacement (e.g Repashy);Locusts;Meal-worms;Morio-Worms;Wax-worms;Veg. Roaches,	Cricket s;Food Replacement (e.g Repashy);Locusts;Meal-worms;Morio-Worms;Vegetables;Wax-worms;Black soldier flies	Food Replacement (e.g Repashy);Meal-worms;Vegetables	Cricket s;Food Replacement (e.g Repashy);Meal-worms;Vegetables;Wax-worms	Cricket s;Meal-worms;Vegetables;Wax-worms	Food Replacement (e.g Repashy);Fruit;Meal-worms	Meal-worms;Dubia roaches	Crickets;Fruit;Locusts;Meal-worms;Morio-Worms;Vegetables	Crickets;Food Replacement (e.g Repashy);Locusts;Meal-worms;Vegetables;Wax-worms;Egg, chicken hearts, washed cat food	Food Replacement (e.g Repashy);Meal-worms;Wax-worms	Locusts;Meal-worms;Morio-Worms;Wax-worms;Prawn/shellfish raw chopped
How many times a week do you feed them?	4	3	3	3	3	4	5	3	3	3	2	4
How often do you spray/water the enclosure(s)?	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2

How do you heat the enclosure(s)?	Deep Heat Projector	Basking Lamp / Halogen Bulb; Ceramic Bulb; Deep Heat Projector ;Depends on time of year what i use and how many	Basking Lamp / Halogen Bulb	Basking Lamp / Halogen Bulb	Basking Lamp / Halogen Bulb	Basking Lamp / Halogen Bulb	Basking Lamp / Halogen Bulb; UVB	Basking Lamp / Halogen Bulb	Basking Lamp / Halogen Bulb	Basking Lamp / Halogen Bulb	Ceramic Bulb	Basking Lamp / Halogen Bulb; Ceramic Bulb; Deep Heat Projector
How big are your enclosure(s)?	4x2x2 (120 gallons)	Various sizes 60x45x45 and bigger	36x18x18 inches	120 gallon	40 breeders	40 gallon	4x2x2	4x2x2	36x18x18 inches	I've kept them in 90x45x90, now in 80x60x40, and will move them into 200x60x70 tomorrow	36x18x18	6ft x 3ft x 3ft for colony (group of 10+) and 3ft x 1.5ft x 1.5ft for smaller groups

How did you find out about Zebra Skinks?	A local reptile store had them years ago and I've always wanted them, I got them at the beginning of this year.	My love of reptiles	Online	I'm a Herpetologist at CSU, I've known about them for years	Reptile expo	Reptile Expo	Online	Love em	Found one randomly in a pet store didn't know much about them at the time neither did the store, so went home learnt as much as possible and went back to purchase him a week later.	We had them at work	I saw them at a reptile store	Saw them for rehoming in a pet shop never heard of them before, learned from other keepers on Facebook and one or two hard to find papers on Google scholar
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Why do you like them / recommend them as pets?	They're so personable and curious, and are so fun to watch!	Easy to handle, care for, very affectionate. Active, fun to watch and play with.	Inquisitive and hardy species that are more ethical to sell as pets than other species.	Smart, curious, inquisitive, fun, easy	Very personable little guys	They're adorable with unique characteristics and personalities.	They are adorable with great personalities!		Great personality, more intelligent and inquisitive than your standard lizards like leopard geckos/crusted geckos	Diurnal, active, pretty, livebearing, social as far as reptiles go, hardy, will eat most things	They are very curious and playful. Great to interact with!	Full of personality, social, interactive, excitable but friendly, diurnal so out during the day, dimorphism with bright colours. I love the fact that they have a few adaptations break some rules of pet keeping and science (live birth, social, hunting
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