



Bobtail

Name	Scientific	<i>Tiliqua rugosa</i>
	Common	Bobtail
Description	The bobtail is a large skink with a triangular-shaped head. Their colour may be dark brown, olive, grey or black and they have large irregular-shaped scales. The tail is short and blunt hence its common name. They grow to 35cm long.	
What it feeds on	Invertebrates, fruits and flowers, and garden snails. In gardens, strawberries and tomatoes are eaten.	
Where it feeds	In the bush and sand dunes. Maybe behind your garden shed.	
Breeding	Females give birth to 1-2 live young. Often the father, mother and young are found living together.	
Effects on other species	If you are fortunate to have one visit your garden they will help to keep garden snails and other invertebrates under control.	
Did you know?	<p>A separate <u>subspecies</u>, <i>Tiliqua rugosa konowi</i>, occurs on Rottnest Island. It is smaller and darker in colour than the local mainland population. Bobtails are often incorrectly called goannas.</p> <p>To frighten predators, bobtails will open their mouths wide showing a blue tongue, and make a noise by expelling air.</p>	



Eric McCrum