

LEOPARD GECKO

- Great for beginners! The Leopard Gecko is one of the most popular pet lizards in captivity.
- Native to India, Pakistan and Afghanistan where the terrain is dry and rocky.
- Adult geckos are typically anywhere from 7 to 10 inches, with females being smaller than males. Some males may reach up to 12 inches.
- Average life span is 6-10 years, however with exceptional care many will live well past that.



Diet

Live crickets and mealworms are the main staple diet of a leopard gecko, but waxworms may be offered as an occasional treat. Live foods should be fed a gutload diet for at least twelve hours before being offered to the gecko, this ensures that your pet is getting maximum nutrition from each feeding and is very important for the health of your gecko.

In order to give your gecko the vitamins and minerals it needs, such as calcium, vitamin D3 and multivitamins, you may either dust the food items with a powdered supplement each feeding or fill a small jar lid or shallow food dish with the supplement and leave it in the cage at all times. Your leopard gecko will know how much their body needs and will lick up the powder accordingly.

Housing

A 10-20 gallon tank is adequate for housing one to two leopard geckos, a larger tank tends to make them stray from their proper heat source and shed box. Provide one or two hiding places, a fresh dish of water, and a shed box with damp moss and/or vermiculite where the gecko can go in order to shed its skin properly. The substrate can be just about anything - sand, bark or soil, cage carpet, etc. It is not recommended to use a sand substrate with young or debilitated leopard geckos as they may consume it and cause an intestinal impaction.

Leopard geckos are nocturnal and do not require special UVB lighting. In order to keep the enclosure at the proper temperature you may choose to use an undertank heating pad or a heat lamp placed on top of the tank. Place the heat source at one end of the tank to provide a temperature gradient; the ideal temperature at the warm end of the tank is 86-90 degrees during the day with a slight drop at night.

Handling & Care

Leopard geckos are very easy to hand tame and will tolerate a fair amount of gentle handling. In general, do not handle leopard geckos on a regular basis until they settle in and are more than 6 inches in total length. Once your gecko is large enough, it is best to sit on the floor and let your gecko crawl through loose fingers and hand-over-hand for 10 to 15 minutes per day until they are accustomed to your touch. This taming process only takes about a week or so. Never grab or hold the gecko's tail as it might be dropped.

Regular cage cleaning is needed and includes removing waste once a month and wiping the entire cage clean and replacing old dirty bedding with fresh at least once every few months.

Metabolic Bone Disease is common in captive reptiles but is easily prevented by dusting foods with a calcium supplement at least once a week. Vitamin D3 should be provided to ensure proper absorption of calcium.

Wash your hands with anti-bacterial soap after handling any animal.

LEOPARD GECKO CHECKLIST

- Terrarium
- Water Dish
- Décor/Hide Spot
- Crickets, Cricket Keeper
- Calcium/Vitamin D3 Supplement
- Heat Source
- Lighting
- Substrate & Moss
- Thermometer
- Hygrometer
- Small Transport Carrier
- Leopard Gecko Book