

Leopard Gecko Care

(*Eublepharis Macularius*)

Their unique patterns, beautiful colours and entertaining personalities are sure to win you over. Offering your new pet the best care, by duplicating their natural habitat, will lead to a happy and healthy 10-20 years together.

ENVIRONMENT

Hot end: 28-30°C

Cool end: 24-26°C

Humidity: 30-40%
with a hide

Basking UV: 0.7

Prior to your gecko's arrival you'll need to establish and test a secure, well ventilated terrarium. Housing should be a minimum of 60cm x 30cm x 40cm to accommodate the gecko's size of around 15-25cm in length. Temperature must be gradient with a hide on each end, and a humid hide on the cool side. Under tank heat is necessary to aid with digestion. Mist as needed to maintain humidity. Use a thermostat and a timer for lighting a 12 hour day/night cycle. The floor must provide grip and be easy to clean. Avoid sand as it can lead to impaction and further health problems. Waste should be spot cleaned. Fully clean the enclosure and all its accessories monthly or sooner if needed. Give your new gecko time to adjust to its new environment before any handling. Always wash your hands before and after handling your pets.

NUTRITION

Insectivore

Geckos need fresh clean drinking water available at all times in a shallow dish. They enjoy a varied diet of invertebrates including: crickets, mealworms, giant mealworms and superworms. Remove any uneaten crickets after an hour as they can stress your pet and may bite the gecko. You can also feed waxworms, silkworms, butterworms and hornworms as treats. Feeder insects should be cared for; kept in large ventilated containers with food, warmth and a day/night cycle and be "gut-loaded" at least 24 hours prior to feeding your gecko and dusted with vitamins and calcium at every feeding time. Always leave a small dish of calcium in the terrarium, with or without D3 depending on the lighting used, as geckos self-regulate.

BEHAVIOUR

Crepuscular with
Nocturnal
Tendencies

Loner

Explorer

Your gecko should live alone and might get aggressive otherwise. Provide lots of foliage overhead to give off shadows and a sense of security. When geckos feel startled, stressed or are handled inappropriately they could drop their tail as a defence mechanism; it's likely to regenerate but consult with your reptile vet if this happens. They climb, hide and explore at dusk and dawn, so these are good feeding times. Notice if they're shedding regularly; more often when they're growing and less often as they become mature adults. If any pieces of shed are left behind, use a warm wet cotton swab to loosen it up and wipe it off.

This care sheet is a brief overview of best practices adapted by Winter Meadow Geckos from www.rspca.org.uk/leopardgecko and it should only be used as a guide. Always seek the help of a certified reptile veterinarian for any concerns or diagnosis.

