



Day Gecko Care Guide

Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop

Basic Info

Species: *Phelsuma* spp. (commonly *Phelsuma madagascariensis*, *grandis*, or *klemmeri*)

Lifespan: 10-15+ years in captivity

Adult Size: 4-12 inches depending on species

Temperament: Skittish, fast, and best as a display animal - not suited for handling

Best for: Intermediate to experienced keepers

Enclosure Setup

Tank Size:

- Juveniles: 12x12x18 enclosure
- Adults: Minimum 18x18x24 for most species
- Vertical space is essential for climbing

Temperature & Heating:

- Daytime ambient: 75-82°F
- Basking spot: 88-92°F
- Night temps: can drop to 68-72°F
- Use a basking bulb and thermostat to control heat

Humidity:

- Maintain 50-70% humidity

- Mist enclosure 1-2 times daily
- Provide good ventilation to prevent mold

Lighting:

- UVB required (ReptiSun 5.0 or Arcadia 6% recommended)
- Provide a 12-hour light/dark cycle

Substrate:

- Coconut fiber, eco earth, or bioactive substrate
- Add leaf litter or moss to retain humidity

Décor & Climbing Surfaces:

- Branches, bamboo, cork bark, vines, and foliage
- Provide multiple vertical and horizontal surfaces
- Include high and low hiding spots

Diet & Feeding

Feeding Frequency:

- Feed daily or every other day depending on age

Diet:

- Commercial day gecko diet (e.g., Repashy or Pangea)
- Live insects: fruit flies, crickets, small roaches, waxworms (as treats)
- Insects must be gut-loaded and dusted with calcium

Supplementation:

- Calcium with D3: 2-3x/week
- Multivitamin: 1x/week
- Lightly dust live insects before feeding

Water & Hydration:

- Mist enclosure for hydration and to provide water droplets
- Shallow water dish optional - they usually drink from surfaces

Handling & Behavior

Handling:

- Not recommended - day geckos are fragile and easily stressed
- Their skin tears easily and tails can drop when startled
- View as a display species

Behavior to Expect:

- Diurnal and arboreal
- Active during the day, loves to bask and climb
- May show bold color changes and territorial displays

Supplies Checklist

- Vertical terrarium (18x18x24 or larger)
- Basking bulb and UVB fixture
- Digital thermometer and hygrometer
- Coconut fiber or bioactive substrate
- Mist bottle or automatic mister
- Branches, plants, cork bark, and vines
- Gecko diet and insect feeder supply
- Calcium and multivitamin powders

Contact Us

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We're here to help!