



African Fat-Tailed Gecko Care Guide

Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop

Basic Info

Species: *Hemitheconyx caudicinctus*

Lifespan: 15-20 years with proper care

Adult Size: 7-9 inches

Temperament: Docile, shy, and easy to handle

Best for: Beginners and those wanting a low-maintenance gecko

Enclosure Setup

Tank Size:

- 10-20 gallon enclosure for one adult
- Horizontal space preferred over vertical
- Secure lid required

Temperature & Heating:

- Warm side: 88-92°F (under-tank heater recommended)
- Cool side: 75-80°F
- Night temps can drop to 70-72°F
- Use a thermostat to regulate heat sources

Humidity:

- Maintain 50-70% humidity

- Provide a humid hide for shedding
- Mist lightly if needed (avoid over-saturating enclosure)

Lighting:

- No UVB required but can be beneficial if provided (low-output)
- Maintain a 12-hour light/dark cycle

Substrate:

- Paper towels, coconut fiber, or reptile carpet
- Avoid sand or loose substrates with small particles

Décor & Hides:

- At least 3 hides: warm side, cool side, and moist hide
- Include branches, cork bark, and artificial plants for enrichment

Diet & Feeding

Feeding Frequency:

- Babies: Feed daily
- Adults: Feed 3-4 times per week

Food Options:

- Crickets, dubia roaches, mealworms, black soldier fly larvae
- Feed insects no wider than the gecko's head

Supplementation:

- Calcium with D3: 3-4 times/week
- Multivitamin: 1-2 times/week
- Dust insects just before feeding

Water & Hydration:

- Provide a shallow water dish
- Change water daily
- Keep humid hide slightly moist at all times

Handling & Behavior

Handling:

- Gently scoop gecko from below and support the body
- Avoid sudden movements and tail grabbing

Behavior to Expect:

- Nocturnal and more active at night
- May vocalize softly or wave tail if nervous
- Will use hides frequently - this is normal

Supplies Checklist

- 10-20 gallon enclosure with lid
- Under-tank heater and thermostat
- Digital thermometer and hygrometer
- Water dish and food bowl
- Calcium and multivitamin supplements
- Moist and dry hides
- Feeder insects (crickets, roaches, worms)
- Appropriate substrate (paper towel or coconut fiber)

Contact Us

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We're here to help!