



Care Sheet Chahoua Gecko - Mniarogekko chahoua

Also known as the mossy prehensile tail gecko. There are two types of Chahoua available Mainland and Pine Island. Three if you include the crosses of these. There are size differences between the two but their care is generally the same. Pine Island come from the Isle of Pines and the Mainland comes from the southern end of mainland New Caledonia. Life span with good care is 15-20 years. New Caledonia is a sub tropical island with a mild climate.

The mainland Chahoua can regrow its tail if it is lost from the base, the pine island does not. There are purportedly some genetic differences between PI and Mainland (sometimes referred to as GT or Grand Terre) Adult Sizes: Mainland: generally up to 50 grams. Pine Island: up to 10 inches long and up to 80 grams.

Housing: Hatchlings can be kept in smaller enclosures while they are little to aid them in finding food & water. A juvenile/adult gecko can be housed in 18*18*24 or larger. Larger is always recommended over smaller. Chahoua often sleep some during the day but spend time switching from perch to perch. They seem to be a little more likely to be active during the day time than other geckos. Geckos should be housed singularly, they are not communal, even as babies. They are semi arboreal so a taller than longer enclosure is ideal. Mainland Chahoua are smaller than Pine Island and could make do with a smaller enclosure.

Female Chahoua do not bury their eggs, they will hide them but will likely ignore a laybox. Female Chahoua may not lay infertile/dud eggs like other geckos if they have not been paired with a male. Their eggs tend to be harder than other geckos and adequate calcium seems to be a breeding issue with these geckos.

Temperatures: Geckos can be housed without supplemental heat in most living situations. Their ideal temperatures are 72-78. Extended temps of over 85 degrees can be harmful. Adjustments should be made to their care to make sure their housing falls into their ideal range. The average annual max temperature in New Caledonia is 78.8° Fahrenheit (26.0° Celsius) and average minimal temperature in New Caledonia 68° Fahrenheit (20.0° Celsius) hitting 65°F at times during the three coldest months. **Humidity around 60-75% year round.** Enclosures should be misted regularly. We find that Chewies can tolerate it a little warmer than some of the other geckos and prefer a slightly warmer basking spot if one is made available (80-83°F).

Food: Fruit blended meal replacement is recommended. Crickets & Dubia roaches also as a supplement (will aid faster growth). Chewies really seem to relish their bugs and we don't feel that bugs are optional, but a required part of their diet. When choosing your staple meal replacement make sure to choose at least one variety with insect protein and not fruit only. There are some commercial diets formulated specifically for Chahoua that you can buy, otherwise commercial Crested Gecko Diet will work just fine. Hatchlings should always have food available. Juveniles & adults can be offered food every couple of days.

Water: Always provide a clean water dish in the enclosure. While misting the enclosure can provide them with fresh water droplets & aid in maintaining humidity, these geckos will drink from standing water.