

Leopard Gecko Care

Enclosure

- **Size:** Well ventilated, 10-15 gallon tank minimum per gecko. Geckos should generally be housed singly throughout their lives
- **Substrate:** Newspaper, paper towels, reptile carpet, or vinyl tile are easy to clean/replace. Geckos may eat bedding made of small particles, you should not use sand (including biodegradable calcium-based sands), wood chips, or gravel.
- **Lighting:** Offer low intensity full spectrum UV-B light during the day. UV bulbs should be replaced every 6 months (even if the light is not burned out).
- **Temperature:** Offer a temperature gradient within the enclosure from 70 degrees on the cool side to 90 degrees on the warm side during the day. Drop temperatures to 70-75 degrees at night.
 - Levels can be monitored by thermometers placed at both the cool and hot ends of the enclosure.
- **Humidity:** 40-60% relative humidity with a moist hide area.
 - A hygrometer (humidity gauge) is used to monitor humidity.
- **Water:** Provide a shallow water dish. Change the water daily.
- **Cage Décor:** Provide low branches and rocks to climb and shelter to hide in.
- **Maintenance:** Remove and replace soiled and wet portions of the substrate daily to prevent bacterial and fungal growth. Disinfect the enclosure with dilute soap or dilute bleach solution on a regular basis and rinse thoroughly.

Nutrition

- **Amount and frequency:** Feed juveniles daily and feed adults 2-3 times per week
- **Diet:** Leopard geckos are carnivore. Offer gut-loaded insects (e.g. crickets, mealworms, giant mealworms wax moth larvae). To prevent injury to your gecko, remove uneaten crickets immediately. Insects should be chosen based on the size of the lizard.
 - To properly gut load, provide insects with a complete diet, such as rodent chow, dry dog food, or bird pellets prior to feeding.
- **Vitamin supplements:** Dust insects with a high-quality calcium/vitamin D3 supplement (no phosphorous) 2-3 times a week. Dust insects with a multi-vitamin (with a vitamin A source that is not a beta carotene) once every 2 weeks.

Handling

Always supervise children when they are interacting with leopard geckos. Never handle a lizard by the tail – it could break off.