

- Leopard Gecko

Common Names : Leopard Gecko, Leos
Scientific Name : Eublepharis Macularius
Average Size : 8" to 11" in Length

QUICK REFERENCE

DIET: Mealworms, Crickets

TEMPS: 86 - 90 F

LIFESPAN: 10 - 20 years in captivity

DESCRIPTION (For About Leopard Geckos Section)

The Leopard Gecko is a crepuscular ground dwelling lizard naturally found in the deserts of Asia and throughout Pakistan, to the northwestern parts of India. Unlike most geckos, leopard geckos possess movable eyelids. It has become a well-established and popular pet in captivity.

The leopard gecko, has been captive-bred in the United States for more than 30 years and is one of the most commonly kept lizards today. They come in a variety of morphs, patterns and sizes. This is a great species for the home.

Size

Adult females are typically 7 to 8 inches, and males are 8 to 11 inches.

Caging

A 10- to 20-gallon aquarium houses one or two leopard geckos from hatchling to adult size. Larger tanks tend to cause the geckos to stray away from their proper heat and hide box. Many people use plastic storage boxes such as Rubbermaid or Sterilite tubs, as housing. This does reduce visibility. Be sure to have a secure ventilated top on your cage at all times.

A hide box filled with moist moss or vermiculite is needed, so your leopard gecko can shed its skin properly. This secure setting also is needed for egg laying if you plan on breeding geckos.

Lighting and Temperature

The best way to heat your leopard gecko is by using an under the tank heating pad or tape. These are available at any pet store or online. Heating one end of the cage is essential. This allows for a temperature variation that your lizard needs. Heat rocks tend to become too hot for leopard geckos and should be avoided due to the risk of burns.

Your Leo should have 12 hrs of daylight and 12 hours of darkness. Bulbs on top of cages are not required. regular lighting in the room will work just fine. Be sure not to keep your Leo too close to a drafty window or in direct sunlight.

The ideal temperature in the hide box is 86 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit at all times. The ambient air temperature of the room they are housed in should be above 73 degrees.

Substrate

Newspaper, paper towel or no floor covering are OK. A young or debilitated leopard gecko might consume sand or fine-particle products on the cage floor, and this could lead to intestinal impaction and possibly death.

Food

Live insects are a must for your gecko; they do not eat plants or veggies. The best items to use are mealworms or crickets. Waxworms or super worms are a nice once a week treat also.

All insects must be first given a nutritious powdered diet for at least 12 hours before being fed to your leopard gecko. This process is called "gut loading," and it is very important to the health of your pet.

Keepers can offer two appropriately sized insects for every inch of a leopard gecko's total length every other day. Therefore, a 4-inch-long gecko would receive eight mealworms three to four times a week

Water

A shallow water dish with fresh water must be available at all times. It should also be stable, so it cannot be spilled. Cage substrate should be kept dry, so be careful about spillage. Make sure that young and adult leopard geckos can climb easily out of the dish you use.