

Leopard Gecko

Eublepharis macularius



Approximate life span: 10-15 years
Estimated adult size: 50-70 grams
Difficulty Level: Beginner
Hot side temp range: 90-95°F
Cool side temp range: 70-75°F
Humidity level: 30-40%

RECOMMENDED VETERINARY CARE

- Annual exam
- Common medical conditions: metabolic bone disease, parasites, impaction, dysecdysis, stomatitis



Leopard geckos, sometimes called spotted geckos, are a good first reptile due to their calm temperament, low humidity requirements, and longer lifespan. There are dozens of morphs, bred for interesting color ranges in white, tan, yellow, and orange, as well as a variety of spot patterns.

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

A 20-30 gallon terrestrial cage setup is suitable for a leopard gecko. Larger cages make it difficult to maintain temperatures, as geckos can wander too far away from their heat source. Cages should include a humid hide box for visual security and proper shedding. Geckos will shed and eat their skin regularly. Substrate should not consist of sand or other materials that can be ingested, due to the increased risk of impaction. Reptile carpet, tile, or newspaper is recommended instead. Decorative touches like artificial plants, rock hides, and caves can also be added. Lighting and temperature are key to healthy reptiles. Leopard geckos should have a hot side and a cool side for maintaining appropriate temperatures as they cannot regulate body temps on their own. They will not require special UV lighting as they are more active at night. Lights should be on for 12 hours per day, with heat maintained at all times.

DIETARY NEEDS

Leopard geckos are insectivores and should be fed live insects exclusively. Crickets, mealworms, silkworms, or dubia roaches should be gut loaded and dusted with a calcium supplement. A meal would consist of two insects no larger than your gecko's head for every inch of the animal's total length, fed every other day. So, a 6-inch gecko could eat 12 worms 3-4 times per week. Superworms or waxworms can be fed occasionally as a treat but are too high in fat for daily feedings. Provide a shallow, stable water dish with fresh water at all times.