



LEOPARD GECKO

Care Guide



ENCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

Enclosures should be more focused on ground space than total cubic feet. Often 20L gallon enclosures will work just fine for the life of the gecko. Leo's don't care how tall the space is, and while they spend most of their time on the ground, they will explore their enclosure on decorations. Make sure they have enough space to spread out. Have at least one decent sized hiding spot, and plenty of cover. They also need access to fresh water. If you are feeding dubia roaches, we recommend a smooth sided dish to feed them in. There are many options for what to cover the enclosure floor with. We use carpet because it is easy to clean, and roaches cant burrow into it. But other people use coconut coir substrate, or even bioactive enclosures.

TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY

Leopard geckos like it warm. They appreciate a temperature range of about 75-85*f across their enclosure. This can be done with under tank heat pads installed on the OUTSIDE of their enclosure, or by over-enclosure heat fixtures. Using a ceramic heat emitter or non-white heat light is also a good option for 24hr heat. New research is showing some Leos benefit from UVB, but keep your ears open for more details as research progresses. Leos don't need it overly humid, but when they are shedding they may appreciate a lukewarm soak to help get any remaining shed off their toes.

BEHAVIOR BASICS

Leopard geckos are great pets. They are typically nocturnal, and will learn your patterns, especially when it comes to feeding time. They are active movers and like checking out their surroundings. They eat insects and will eat a variety of bugs. They can be housed singly, or in pairs (except male-male, those will fight!), but care should be made to make sure any multi-housed gecko is still getting enough food and isn't being picked on. They aren't known escape artists, but will make a dash for it if they get nervous. Care should be taken with their tail. They can and will detach it if someone startles them and grabs them by their tail. They will re-grow it, but it is a stressful experience for the gecko, and the new tail is never as pretty as their first one. They also shed in nearly one piece and eat it! Gross but cool!

HANDLING

When getting your Leo out, grab them around the middle or where their shoulders are. Never from the tail! Cup your hands around them until they have settled, but be prepared for them to scurry if they get startled. Their feet don't have the same gripping power as wall climbing geckos, and they can slip on smooth surfaces. While they can bite, their teeth are small and unlikely to draw blood. If your gecko seems distressed (mouth open, waving its tail) put it back in its cage for a while to settle.

FEEDING

Leopard geckos love their bugs. Your rescue gecko has primarily been eating dubia roaches and the occasional cricket. Feed them their bugs (well dusted with calcium powder) 2-4 times a week. They would like about 8-10 crickets or 4 roaches of the appropriate size at a time. Limit the feeding of mealworms (too crunchy) or wax worm or hornworms (too fatty) to treats or as availability of the other food sources require.

HEALTH CONCERNS

Leopard geckos are prone to eye infections. Check their eyes regularly to make sure they are opening wide and free of discharge. If their eyes wont open, or get crusty, they may need prescription eye drops from your vet. They also may get abscesses (infected lumps) that need to be treated if they injure themselves. If their tail is accidentally pulled off, make sure the detachment site stays clean and clear of debris. To keep bone growth healthy, make sure to regularly dust their food with calcium powder.