



Leopard Geckos

Overview

- Ease of Care: Beginner
- Adult Size: 18-25cm (7-9.5")
- Life Span: Up to 15 years
- Diet: Insects
- Temperament: Friendly
- Background Temp: 20-24°C (68-75°F)
- HOT Spot: 30-32.2°C (86-90°F)

Equipment Needed

- Housing: Terrarium/Vivarium (age/size dependant)
- Heating: Heat Mat / Basking Bulb (depending if Terrarium or Vivarium)
- Arcadia Clamp Lamp Holder Plus Bracket Pro (for use with bulb, ceramic, and Deep Heat Projector)
- HabiStat Heater Guard (for use with Ceramic, Bulb, and Deep heat projector)
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Leopard Gecko Bedding, Arcadia EarthMix Arid
- Water: Water Dish

Top Tips

- 1. Try using a mealworm dish to keep mealworms or calci worms in one area for the Leopard Gecko.
- 2. Provide night-time heat to help the Leopard Gecko digest the insects it consumes and keep within the natural range. The Arcadia Deep Heat Projector or HabiStat Black Magic Ceramic are ideal.
- 3. If your Leopard Gecko seems to be licking the substrate this could be a sign that it is lacking certain vitamins or minerals. Ensure that a calcium and multi-vitamin supplement is used when feeding the Leopard Gecko.
- 4. Provide a moist box to help the Leopard Gecko shed its skin easily.
- 5. Using a calci dish filled with natural calcium will offer the option for the Leopard Gecko to take in an extra calcium boost, should it feel necessary to do so.

Housing

A relevant sized Terrainium or Vivarium is the perfect housing solution for a Leopard Gecko (*Eublepharis macularius*) throughout its whole life.

Juvenile Leopard Gecko:

Monkfield Terrainium, L61 x D38 x H20cm (24 x 15 x 12") (DVTE24 / DVTE24B / DVTE24G)

Monkfield Standard Vivarium, L61 x D38 x H39cm (24 x 15 x 15") (DVF2415 / DVF2415B / DVF2415BL)

HabiStat Leopard Gecko Starter Kit (HSLGSK)

Adult Leopard Gecko:

Monkfield Terrainium, L91 x D46 x H46cm (36x 18 x 18") (DVF36 / DVF38BL / DVFG36)

Environment

Heating

Leopard Geckos are ectotherms taking all their heat requirements from external sources. In the wild they spend most of the day in burrows and become active at dusk when the temperatures are more favourable.

Heating a Terrarium

To replicate these conditions in a terrainium, we recommend using a heat mat as the heat source that is thermostatically controlled. The heat mat should be inserted into the glass holder located in the base of the Terrainium to ensure that the Leopard Gecko does not come directly into contact with it.

The heat mat should always be used in conjunction with a heat mat thermostat.

Heat mat thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known as a sensor).

Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the Leopard Gecko. Insert the probe through the back of the terrainium via the rubber grommet and tape directly onto the glass panel above the heat mat. The probe cable should be taped 2-5cm (1-2") back from the actual probe sensor to allow for a correct temperature reading and avoid it becoming dislodged. Carefully place the substrate on top.

Heating a Vivarium

To provide an appropriate heat source in a Vivarium we recommend using a ceramic heat bulb or deep heat projector that is thermostatically controlled.

The heat bulb should be set up using a ceramic bulb holder, which can be attached to the roof of the vivarium, approximately 15-20cms from one side.

The heat bulb should be used in conjunction with a dimming thermostat.

Dimming thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known as a sensor).

Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the Leopard Gecko. The probe should be positioned on the floor in the basking area and the probe cable should be taped to the floor 2-8cm (1-3") back from the actual probe sensor. This will ensure an accurate temperature reading and prevent the probe becoming dislodged. Carefully place the substrate on top of the probe cable leaving just the probe above the surface.

Temperature and Monitoring

As a rough guide, daytime temperatures should average with the hot end being between 30-32.2°C (86-90°F) going down to around 20-24°C (68-75°F) at the cooler end of the vivarium.

It should be allowed to cool overnight, aiming for 20-24°C (68-75°F).

Make sure temperatures are checked regularly with a 2x probed thermometers (one in both the hot and cooler ends) to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

Lighting

Leopard Geckos are crepuscular, meaning, in the wild they sleep in a safe and secure area during the main part of the day so are not exposed to high levels of light and UV, but then come during dawn and dusk when the levels are lower.

A UV light should be provided. Ensure that it is fitted correctly and securely overhead to avoid any injuries to the Leopard Gecko.

Substrates and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your vivarium, but we recommend the following as a guide:

1. Substrates: A dry substrate such as Habistat Leopard Gecko Bedding or Arcadia EarthMix Arid that is easy to spot clean.
2. Wood for basking and climbing on.
3. Artificial or live plants for decoration and to provide darker areas for the Leopard Gecko to hide away in if he chooses to.
4. Hides to allow the Leopard Gecko to hide away if it chooses to and to provide an area to feel safe and secure.

Diet and Water

Hatchlings through to Adults should be offered appropriately sized insects. As a rule, the distance between the gecko's eyes will give you the approximate width of live food to feed your gecko.

Leopard Geckos are well adapted to living in areas that are prone to drought and can store fluid and fat reserves in their tails to access when needed. In captivity it is important to make sure fresh water is always available for the gecko to drink.

Access to a moist area in the enclosure will help the Leopard Gecko to shed correctly and provide a safe area for the Leopard Gecko to hide in. A moist hide can be bought, or a moist box built using a small plastic box with a hole cut in the lid with a moist substrate inside such as sphagnum moss or coco fibre brick.

Supplementation

Leopard Geckos need additional supplementation to their diet to help them to flourish and maintain healthy and productive lives. We recommend using a calcium Magnesium mix and a multi-vitamin powder. A small dish of calcium powder in the enclosure will give the Leopard Gecko the opportunity to take in calcium whenever it wishes.

Health & Hygiene

We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Leopard Gecko healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	Change old water for fresh water	Spot clean	Check vents are not blocked allowing air to pass through freely
Weekly	Disinfect water bowl / dish	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build-up and remove any dirty bedding	Wipe down glass with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Full substrate change	Wipe down the enclosure and décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling or feeding your Leopard Gecko, their food, enclosure and any other

Additional Information

- A young Leopard Gecko may sometimes make a squealing noise, this is a defensive behaviour and normally means they are unhappy about something.
- When a Leopard Gecko sheds, the process will begin by the Leopard Gecko rubbing its face against an object in the enclosure to loosen the skin around its face. Once this has been achieved, the Leopard Gecko will take the loose skin in its mouth and begin to eat the skin as it sheds. They will normally shed their skin in one piece and eat it all. It is worth checking the gecko's toes to ensure that all the old skin has shed properly, as if there is any left, it can cause problems by constricting the blood supply to the toes.
- If a Leopard Gecko feels threatened or in extreme danger, it can shed (drop) its tail. The process of shedding the tail is known as autotomy.