

# Leopard Gecko Care

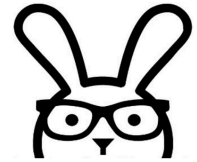


- ***Eublepharis macularius***
- Originate from India, Pakistan
- Lifespan: 6-10yr but can do 15-20 in captivity
- Puberty: 1yr
- Often best alone although some females can live with others
- Most active at dusk and dawn (crepuscular)
- Tail autotomy
  - Their tail can “drop” off and regrow with a cartilaginous rod.
- Shed every 2-5 weeks
  - The faster they grow the more they will shed
  - Eat their own skin from their sheds (get minerals and vitamins from this)

## Enclosure

- Terrestrial species
- The bigger the enclosure the better for movement, so long as the appropriate temperatures can be maintained
- Multiple hides should be provided
  - Humid hides should be provided to help with shedding
  - Humid hides can be created using sphagnum moss
  - Should be provided at both the hot and cold end
- Substrate:
  - Reptile carpet, paper towels, sand-soil can be used
  - Never use calci-sand for substrate as has a high impaction risk
- Need areas to dig
  - Females lay eggs regardless of male presence
  - Sand-soil mix can work well or Critter Crumble (coconut husk)
  - Can be provided in an area of the enclosure
- Daily spot cleans of enclosure to remove waste
  - Clean of the enclosure weekly recommended
  - F10 1:250 dilution recommended
  - To clean enclosure as well as accessories
- Temperature
  - Hot end 30-32°C
  - Cool end 22-24°C
  - No less than 20°C at night
  - Best to have a thermometer at gecko height at both the hot and cold end
  - Check the temperatures daily. Do not rely on thermostat readings as these can be unreliable
  - A temperature gun is also recommended for spot testing
  - Radiant heat sources are best during the day as they are more natural however, non-radiant heat source should be used at night to prevent temperature drop
  - Hot rocks are not recommended as can cause burns

- Humidity 20-40%
  - Hygrometer in the middle of the enclosure is best to measure this
- UVB bulb
  - Shade dwelling T5 bulb recommended (5-7% UVB)
  - Tube bulb covering vivarium length recommended
  - 12hr light and 12 hour dark
  - Needs to be changed every 6 months or have it's UV output checked as this deteriorates over time
  - Plastic or glass should not be between the UV bulb and the gecko as this can stop the UV rays getting through



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## Diet

- Insectivores
  - Variety of insects is recommended
  - Can feed: crickets, roaches, locusts, waxworms, mealworms
  - Best to feed in the evening as this is more natural for them
  - Gut load insects 12-24 hours before feeding them to the gecko and dust with Ca immediately before feeding
    - Ensure no vit D3 or phosphorus in dust
    - Gut loading examples are:
      - Arcadia Insect Fuel or Repashy superload
  - A multivitamin is recommended once a week
    - Vitamin A is particularly important to supplement in leopard geckos
    - Insects are a poor source of Vitamin A and without it diseases of the eyes, ears, skin and respiratory system can occur
    - As Leopard geckos are insectivores they are unable to convert vitamin A from its precursors found in vegetables. This makes many multivitamins inappropriate for leopard geckos
    - The multivitamin given must contain Vitamin A as retinol, palmitate or retinoic acid. In NZ brands recommended are Repashy Calcium Plus or Flukers Reptile Multivitamin Liquid
- Hatchlings + young fed 4-8 food items once a day
- Adults
  - 4-10 items every 2-3 days
- Fresh clean water should be provided at the cooler end of the tank
  - It is also recommended to bathe your gecko a 2-3 times a week for 15-30 minutes
  - This should be done in a shallow tub of lukewarm water
  - It is recommended to put something on the floor of the tub such as a face cloth for grip