

Leopard Gecko Care Guide:

Facts:

- 15 - 20 years on average in captivity
- 8 -11 inch in length
- Active during dawn and dusk (crepuscular)

Enclosure Size:

- Baby/Juvenile: 30" x 12" x 12" (20 Gallon Long)
- Adults can live in a 30" x 12" x 12" (20 Gallon Long), but a 36" x 18" x 18" (40-gallon Breeder) is highly recommended.

Substrates:

- Safe non-loose Options:
 - Food grade safe non adhesive shelf liner, tile/slate, paper towels, or non-adhesive vinyl flooring.
- Safe Loose Options:
 - 70% topsoil with no additives/ 30% play sand mixture (add coco fiber or sphagnum moss to your substrate to help hold humidity)
- **Not** recommended
 - Loose Substates: calcium sand, woodchips, sand on its own, aspen snake bedding, repti-bark, aquarium gravel, or aquarium sand.
 - Non-Loose Substrate: reptile carpet, sand mats, cork mats, adhesive shelf liners, adhesive vinyl flooring

Humidity:

- Averaging between 40 - 55%
- Humid hide (within the enclosure to allow access to higher humidity)
 - Small container (tubberware, jar, etc.)
 - Around 80-100% humidity
 - Damp sphagnum moss or damp paper towel
 - Allows them to regulate their humidity as needed and will help with shedding

Heating: *Monitor all temps with a digital thermometer or temp gun*

****NO COLORED BULBS****

- Day:
 - Basking spot - 95 - 105°F.
 - Ambient - 86 - 95°F°
 - Cool side - 78 - 83°F°

- Night:
 - **Not** below 65°F.
 - If supplemental heat is required use a CHE (ceramic heat emitter)

UVB: *provided 12 hrs a day*

- Linear T5 HO, covering 1/2 of enclosure
 - Zoo Meds 5.0 Repti-Sun T5 HO (linear bulb)
 - Arcadias 7% UVB T5 HO Shade Dweller (linear bulb)

Feeding:

- How Often
 - Babies (0 - 6 months): Everyday
 - Juveniles (6 - 12 months): Every other day
 - Adults (12+ months): 2-3x a week

** Feed them as much as they can eat within a 10 – 15 minute period and then stop feeding*

- What to Feed: (alternate for a varied diet)
 - Dubia Roaches
 - Discoid Roaches
 - Crickets
 - Black Soldier Fly Larvae
 - Silkworms
 - Mealworms
 - Hornworms (1x a week MAX)
 - Super worms (1x a week MAX)

Supplementation: ***LIGHTLY** dust feeder insects*

- Calcium WITHOUT D3 (2-3x a week)
 - Repashy Super Cal NOD
 - EarthPro-CalciumPro

Leave a small dish in the enclosure. This allows your Leo to naturally regulate its own calcium levels

- Multivitamin with D3 (1x a week)
 - Repashy SuperCal LOD
 - Repashy Calcium Plus

** Avoid multivitamins that use Beta Carotene as a Vitamin A supplement, Leo's absorb Vitamin A better in its active form **

Water:

- Use a shallow water dish (add rocks if deeper than elbows)
 - Bottled water, treated tap water, gallon drinking water, or gallon spring water
- Water should be changed every day.

Decorations

- Thick branches, logs, fake plants, live plants (will need a plant light), fake logs, cork bark, terracotta pots, hanging vines, rock hides, etc.
- Additives: You can also add miniature items into your tank to create a theme as long as they are animal-safe, non-chipped, un-sharp, etc.

Tank Cleaning:

- Spot cleaning should be done every day.
- Once a month the tank should be completely cleaned out. That includes washing out the tank, fresh substrate, and fake décor should also be washed.

Handling:

Leos usually have calm personalities and are very mellow. This makes them fairly easy to handle. They can be skittish at times and if you are having a hard time getting your gecko to trust you, try slow, gentle approaches. Baby steps are key, you do not want to force/ spook your gecko as this can set them back further. Try to let them come to you if you can. For newer geckos you can place a small item of your clothing (like a sock) in their enclosure, this will help them get used to your scent. They can handle a good bit of handling, just be gentle as they are small, delicate creatures. Always wash your hands before and after handling with a lightly scented soap and warm water.