

shopping list for needed supplies

- ☐ appropriately sized habitat
- ☐ book about leopard geckos
- ☐ commercial leopard gecko food
- ☐ food (insects)
- ☐ treats
- ☐ substrate
- ☐ moss
- ☐ water dishes
- ☐ mealworm dish
- ☐ hideaway place
- ☐ climbing decor
- ☐ plants
- ☐ heat light
- ☐ heat fixture
- ☐ under tank heater
- ☐ vitamin supplement
- ☐ calcium supplement
- ☐ cricket keeper
- ☐ cricket food
- ☐ thermometer
- ☐ humidity gauge

sources

Speak to an associate about the Petco library of books on leopard geckos.

Speak to an associate about our many private brand items available for the care and happiness of your pet.

Because all leopard geckos are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Salmonella, always wash your hands before and after handling your leopard gecko and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a leopard gecko and should consider not having a leopard gecko as a pet. For more information regarding leopard geckos and disease, go to the Center for Disease Control at cdc.gov/healthypets/ and petco.com/caresheet.

This care sheet can cover the needs of other species. See petco.com for more information.

leopard gecko

eublepharis macularius



care sheet

Leopard geckos are available in a variety of colors including lucicistic, high yellow, and albino. Unlike other geckos, leopard geckos have moveable eyelids.

leopard gecko facts:

average adult size: 6 to 9 inches long

average life span: 20+ years
with proper care

diet: insectivore

Will reach adult size in 9-12 months, under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your reptile grows.

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

diet

A well-balanced leopard gecko diet consists of:

- Insects, including crickets, small mealworms, and waxworms. Use gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets no larger than half the length of the gecko's head.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your leopard gecko:

- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times.
- Feed juveniles daily.
- Feed adults every other day.
- Sprinkle food with calcium supplement daily and a multi-vitamin supplement once or twice a week.

housing

- Size - appropriate size habitat with secure cover; a 10-20 gallon

tank is recommended for one leopard gecko.

- Habitat - provide multiple hiding areas with non-toxic plants, branches, logs, and cork. Maintain no less than 50% humidity to promote proper shedding.
- Substrate - use sani-chips or calcium sand; geckos may eat substrate; if they do, select a substrate they won't eat such as habitat carpet.
- Temperature - temperature gradient (95°F for the warm end/basking area and 78-88°F for the cool end).
- Lighting - 10-12 hours of light per day is required; because leopard geckos are nocturnal, they do not require UVB lighting. An incandescent bulb can be used for basking area during daylight hours only; can use a ceramic heater or black heat bulb at all hours.

- **Do not** house two or more male geckos together and do **not** house different reptile species together.

normal behavior

- Nocturnal (active during the night) and hide under rocks or burrow into the sand during the day.
- Keep handling to a minimum as over handling can cause them stress.
- Never grab a gecko by its tail as they may detach their tail.

habitat maintenance

Thoroughly clean the habitat at least once a week: place leopard gecko in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all traces of bleach smell; dry the tank and furnishings completely and add clean substrate.

grooming & hygiene

Leopard geckos regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is at appropriate level to allow proper shedding. To facilitate shedding, provide a shed box, which is essentially a hide box with sphagnum moss, that will aid in the shedding process.

signs of a healthy animal

- Active and alert
- Clear eyes
- Body and tail are rounded, filled out
- Healthy skin
- Clear nose and vent
- Eats regularly

red flags

- weight loss or decreased appetite
- mucus in mouth or nose
- swelling
- lethargy
- bumps, sores, or abrasions on skin
- labored breathing
- paralysis of limbs or tail
- abnormal feces

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.

common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
gastro-intestinal disease	runny stools, caked or smeared stool around the vent area, and loss of appetite caused by bacterial or parasitic infection.	consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
metabolic bone/vitamin deficiency	inability to absorb calcium. if untreated, can lead to a disorder characterized by deformities and softened bones. swollen limbs and lethargy.	consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
respiratory disease	labored breathing and mucus in the mouth or nose. can be caused by a habitat that is too cold or damp.	consult your exotic animal veterinarian and ensure habitat is appropriately warm.