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Day Gecko

Phelsuma sp.

Lifespan: Up to 15 years.

Size: Regular species grow 4 to 6 inches; dwarfs grow 2 to 4 inches and giants grow up to 13 inches.

Sexing: Males have visible bulges just below the tail and a line of ventral pores.

Enclosure: Dwarfs can easily be housed in a 12x12x18 or 12x12x24 all glass tank but a 18x18x24 tank or larger is required for the larger species. ***Pisces recommends: Exo-Terra reptile tanks.***

Hiding/Climbing Spots: Day Geckos love to climb and hide. Provide a lot of plants and vines for them to climb on and hide in. Cork bark, jungle vines and branches are great options

Humidity: The enclosure should be well ventilated and misted well to keep the humidity high (60% to 80%) and to aid the process of shedding and prevent health problems. Use a hygrometer to maintain a constant humidity level. Ensure that the enclosure doesn't get too wet for too long as it can lead to respiratory infections.

Substrate: Loose, moist forest substrate with sphagnum moss in parts to help with humidity. ***Pisces recommends: Exo-terra Plantation Soil, Zoomed Reptisoil or Jurassic ABG Mix***

Heat: Maintain a temperature as low as 20 °C at night to as high as 25°C during the day (75 °F to 82 °F). A basking spot of 85 to 90°F is ideal. Use a heat bulb on one portion of the tank so the animal can escape the warm area if they need to. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra and Arcadia bulbs and fixtures.***

UV Lighting: Use of a full spectrum T5 bulb for 8-10 hours per day is required. UVB bulbs lose effectiveness and need to be replaced every 8-12 months. ***Pisces Recommends: Arcadia T5 Pro D3+ UVB kit or Arcadia Compact 7% UVB bulb and Ceramic clamp lamp fixture***

Feeding: Offer food every other, you can skip a day without causing any harm, but do not make a habit of it. Day geckos feed on appropriately sized crickets and worms as well as the Pangea and Repashy complete gecko diets. ***Pisces Recommends: Pangea Gecko Flavours***



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

Vitamins & Supplements: Dust crickets with calcium supplement every feeding and a multivitamin every 2-4 feedings. Be sure to use a calcium supplement with Vitamin D₃. **Pisces recommends: Repashy Calcium Plus and Supervite.**

Handling: Day Geckos are extremely fast and should not be handled often. If tames down, they should be held in a loose fist when they must be handled. Day Geckos are better left alone because they are very fast and can lose their tails and pieces of skin when put under stress.

Safe Handling of Reptiles*: As with all living creatures, reptiles can carry microorganisms (including Salmonella) which can make people ill. To reduce the chances of infection, always follow these safe handling steps:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet, its food and anything it has touched.
- Keep your pet in a habitat designed for it; do not let your pet reptile roam around the home without proper supervision.
- Keep your pet, its food dishes and cage components out of the kitchen.
- Don't nuzzle or kiss your pet.
- Infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a compromised immune system have a greater risk of infection. Extra caution should be taken when they are in contact with any animal. Children under 5 should handle reptiles only under adult/parent supervision.

Your New Pet: It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet's health and to prevent illness. Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you, but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat. A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.

Pisces Recommended Setup:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Glass Terrarium (Exo Terra Small Tall 18x18x24) ❑ Exo Terra/NewCal Pet branches and cork branches for climbing ❑ Zoomed/Jurassic cork rounds and flats ❑ Plants (live or Exo Terra/Pangea artificial hanging plants) ❑ Exo Terra misting bottle or Mistking System ❑ Exo Terra/Zoomed or Pet-Tekk small water dish ❑ Jurassic Sphagnum Moss, sheet moss or terrarium moss ❑ Jurassic leaf litter ❑ Magnaturals magnetic gecko feeder or Pangea acrylic food ledge ❑ Pangea/Repashy Gecko diets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Exo Terra plantation soil, Zoomed Reptisoil or Jurassic ABG Mix substrates ❑ Exo Terra 100W Daylight basking lamp & Flukers 8.5in Dimmable Deluxe Clamp Lamp ❑ Arcadia T5 Pro D3+ UVB kit or Arcadia Compact 7% UVB bulb and ceramic clamp lamp ❑ Infrared Heat Bulb if needed for nighttime ❑ Repashy Calcium Plus ❑ Repashy Supervite multivitamin ❑ Crickets (appropriately sized) ❑ Exo Terra digital thermometer and hydrometer or combometer |
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**Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*