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Photo by Piscetes Pet Emporium

Leopard Gecko

Eublepharis macularius

Lifespan: 15 to 20 years on average.

Size: Average of 7"-10" but the giants can get larger.

Sexing: Males have a V-shaped row of preanal pores in front of the vent, as well as hemipenial bulges at the base of their tail.

Enclosure: The minimum size for a single Leopard Gecko is a standard 24x18x12, all-glass tank with a screen top. For 2 females or a pair (for experienced keepers), a 36x18x12 would be ideal. Do not house more than one male Leopard Gecko together, they will fight. ***Piscetes recommends: ExoTerra All-Glass Terrariums.***

Hiding/Climbing Spots: To minimize stress, provide one or more hiding caves or rocks for your Leopard Gecko. Flat rocks can also be used for basking areas as well as a good place to hide.

Humidity: Leopard Geckos are desert geckos and do not require a high humidity level, no more than 40%. Provide a water dish for drinking water as well as a humid hide with moss to aid in shedding. Sphagnum moss makes a great place to help shed as well as to lay eggs.

Substrate: For baby Leopard Geckos, reptile carpet is the ideal substrate. For adults, you may use sand or other desert litter but be wary of impaction. ***Piscetes recommends: Zilla Repta-liner, Zilla Desert Blend or Exo Terra Desert Stone.***

Heat: Leopard Geckos like it hot. Leopard should have an ambient temperature no lower than 73° and a basking temperature between 86° and 92°. Use a heat bulb on one portion of the tank so the animal can escape the warm area if they need to. Digital thermometers are the most accurate devices to monitor temperature. ***Piscetes recommends: ExoTerra and Arcadia bulbs and fixtures.***

UV Lighting: No UVB light is required if a Vitamin D supplement is incorporated into their diet. Leopard Geckos are crepuscular/nocturnal and rarely leave their hide during the day. If UVB does get provided, the Arcadia T5 D3+ 12% is recommended.

Feeding: Leopard Geckos are insectivores, meaning they only eat insects. Leopards should be fed every day to every other day. Crickets should be no bigger than the width of their head. Worms are also a nice treat but not recommended often for babies.

Vitamins & Supplements: Dust insects with calcium powder every feeding. A vitamin supplement should be added once or twice a week. ***Pisces recommends: Repashy Calcium Plus and Supervite.***

Handling: Leopard Geckos will tolerate gentle handling but avoid handling them too often. Extra care should be taken with babies and juveniles, as they are small, fragile, and quick moving. Do not grab your Leopard Gecko by its tail, or it will drop it. The tail will often grow back in 3-4 months, but never comes back as nice as the original. Leopards should not be handled excessively as they can stress out.

Cleaning: If using reptile carpet or newsprint clean the tank out once a week with a 1:10 vinegar to water mixture. If using desert litter or sand, spot clean everyday with a litter scoop and replace the substrate every six months. Make sure that decorations, dishes, and hides get cleaned and rinsed thoroughly once a week and offer fresh clean water every day.

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.

OBYour 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"> ❑ Exo Terra Glass terrarium (Medium Low 24x18x12) ❑ Exo Terra, Pet-Tekk Caves or Zoomed/Jurassic cork rounds and flats for hiding ❑ Exo Terra, Zoomed or Pet-Tekk small to medium water dish for drinking water ❑ Exo Terra or Komodo fake plants, Galapagos Cholla wood or rocks for enrichment in the enclosure ❑ Zilla Repta-Liner, Exo Terra Desert Stone, Zilla Desert Blend or Dry Zoomed Eco Earth for substrate ❑ Jurassic Sphagnum moss for a humid hide (help prevent stuck shed) ❑ Exo Terra 100watt Intense Basking Lamp & Flukers 8.5in Dimmable Deluxe Clamp Lamp Fixture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Exo Terra small under tank heat mat and Exo Terra Electronic 100watt Thermostat for maintaining temperature ❑ Arcadia 22.5in T5 Pro D3+12% UVB Bulb and fixture (optional but recommended) ❑ Repashy Calcium Plus or PangeaCal Supplements ❑ Repashy Supervite Multivitamin ❑ Crickets/worms (size is dependent on the space between the geckos' eyes) ❑ Exo Terra Digital Thermometer or combometer ❑ Exo Terra or zoomed small to medium feeding dishes |
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**Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*