



## Pamper your Fin, Fur or Feathered Family

..and your friends with Scales

### Plated Lizard

*Gerrhosaurus*

**Lifespan:** 25 to 35 years.

**Size:** 16 to 28 inches long.

**Sexing:** Plated Lizards are very difficult to sex. The most accurate way is to get them probed; probing should only be done by a qualified veterinarian or experienced breeder.

**Enclosure:** Plated Lizards should have at least a 40-gallon breeder tank.

**Hiding/Climbing Spots:** Provide lots of branches and twigs for your Fire Skink to bury under. A hiding cave is necessary.

**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. Provide a water dish large enough for the animal to curl up in to help aid the shedding process.

**Substrate:** Loose Forest flooring is best to use for substrate. It is good for burrowing and holds in moisture. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra Plantation Soil.***

**Heat:** Maintain a temperature of as low as 21 °C at night to as high as 32 °C during the day (70 °F to 90 °F). 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 bulbs and fixtures.***

**UV Lighting:** Use of a full spectrum 5.0 bulb for 12 hours per day is required. Fluorescent bulbs lose effectiveness and need to be replaced every 6-8 months.

**Feeding:** A Plated Lizards diet should include crickets, worms, and fruits and vegetables (kale, green leaf or romaine lettuce, dandelion leaves, strawberries, grapes, blueberries, mango). Fruits should make only about 10 percent of their diet. Avoid any spinach, broccoli, cauliflower or other bitter tasting vegetables as they impede the ability to take in vitamins. Feed adult Plated Lizards 4-5-week-old crickets every two days. Feed juveniles/babies 3-4-week-old crickets. Many Plated lizards enjoy alternative protein such as feeder fish, snails, or eggs. They can also have a pinky mouse for a treat every two weeks once they are fully-grown.

**Vitamins & Supplements:** Dust crickets with a vitamin powder supplement every other feeding. ***Pisces recommends: Repashy Calcium plus ICB***

**Handling:** Plated Lizards may tolerate some handling but are very quick tempered and fast. Be careful not to drop your Plated Lizard because of their quickness. The more you handle your Plated Lizard, the more it will tolerate being held. If you continue with patience, Plated Lizards can become very tame.

**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.

**Recommended Books:** Pisces recommends *Terrarium Animals From A to Z*(Barron's Books).

**Recommended Supplies:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Glass terrarium (long is best)</li> <li>❑ Screen top (if not included with terrarium)</li> <li>❑ Cave</li> <li>❑ Misting bottle</li> <li>❑ Water dish</li> <li>❑ Plantation Soil</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Heat Bulb &amp; Fixture</li> <li>❑ Fluorescent Light &amp; Fixture</li> <li>❑ Repashy Calcium plus ICB</li> <li>❑ Crickets</li> <li>❑ Thermometer</li> <li>❑ Hygrometer</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

**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.



4921 Skyline Way N.E.

Calgary, Alberta T2E 4G5

Phone: (403) 274-3314 Fax: (403) 275-6296

[www.piscespets.com](http://www.piscespets.com)

Email: [pisces@piscespets.com](mailto:pisces@piscespets.com)

*Reprint of this handout only with permission of and full credit to Pisces Pet Emporium*

*\*Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*