



# Leopard Gecko



## Origin:

Dry, rocky highlands of central Asia & Pakistan

**Size:** 6-9 inches long (full size in 9-12 months)

**Life Span:** 20+ years with proper care

## Heat and Lighting:

- Use a low-wattage heat lamp to create a basking area; this should be on 24/7.
- You can also use an under-tank heater to provide warmth
- Keep a UVB light on 12 hours per day to provide UVB and visible light.
- Basking area 87-90 F and cool side 74-77 F

## Tank setup:

- A 10-20 gallon tank is recommended
- Provide at least one hiding area – use non-toxic plants, branches, or logs as décor
- Provide a hide box filled with moist moss to assist with shedding properly.
- Substrate: we most recommend reptile carpet. Paper towels and newspaper can be used as well. Avoid loose substrates as your gecko could accidentally ingest them.

## Diet:

 Only Insectivores

- A well-balanced gecko diet consists of crickets, superworms or mealworms, or waxworms.
- Crickets should be gut-loaded (recently fed, so enriched with calcium), and no larger than the space between the gecko's eyes.
- Feed juveniles daily, and adults approximately every other day. The general rule is to feed 2 insects per inch of animal at each feeding, but monitor your gecko's eating habits and feed as much as he/she will eat in about 10 minutes.

**Water and Humidity:** Water should be available at all times, and cleaned regularly. The tank should be dry except for the moss box to keep humidity low.

## Temperament & Handling:

- Allow geckos to settle in for 3-4 weeks to adjust before handling them, and then start with short handling sessions. Handling them on a flat surface such as a bed is best.
- They eat their skin while shedding

**Tail Loss:** Never grab or hold a gecko's tail! They can 'drop' their tails if they are pinched or squeezed, and can re-grow them in approximately 40 days, but it is stressful for them.

**Housemates:** A single male and multiple females, or multiple females can be kept together. Multiple males should *never* be kept together.

### Leopard Gecko Growth Chart

Age	Weight	Body Length
Hatchling	2-5 g	3"-4"
1 month	15-20 g	4"
2 months	18-30 g	5"
6 months	25-60 g	5"-6"
18 months	40-80 g	8"-11"

Source: <https://petkeen.com/how-big-do-leopard-geckos-get/>