



pets in the classroom



CARE SHEET

LEOPARD GECKO

Housing

A leopard gecko should be housed in a 10-20 gallon tank that has a secure lid. Up to three Leopard Geckos can be housed together with only one male per habitat.

Environment

Leopard Geckos originate from the desert and require a warm, dry environment; with a moist hiding place to help with shedding. There should be 10-30% humidity with a shed box to promote proper shedding and there should be a shed box, which is essentially a hide box with damp sphagnum moss. They also require a temperature gradient with a warm side and cool side of the tank. The warm side (85-95° F) can be created with an under-tank heater placed on one side of the habitat. The cool side should maintain temperatures between 75-85° F. Use an under-tank heater, ceramic heat emitter or night heat lamp as needed to maintain nighttime temperatures (65-75° F). Leopard Geckos are nocturnal and don't require ultraviolet light but do need a 12-hour light/dark cycle. If room light does not provide enough light, use a fluorescent bulb to provide additional daylight. The substrate should consist of a 2-3" layer of calcium sand or reptile carpet. For geckos under 6 inches, use reptile carpet to prevent accidental ingestion of sand. The habitat should also contain multiple hiding areas with non-toxic plants, branches, logs, and cork.

Care

A well-balanced leopard gecko diet consists of crickets, small mealworms, and waxworms along with fresh, clean drinking water. Juveniles should be fed daily, and adults fed every other day. Also be sure to sprinkle its food with a calcium supplement daily and a multivitamin supplement once or twice a week. You should thoroughly clean the habitat at least once a week by placing the gecko in a secure habitat while you scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution. Rinse it thoroughly with water until all traces of the bleach smell are gone.