



Fun fact ↻ Leopard geckos can detach their tails if a predator ever catches them.

Leopard Geckos at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Beginner**

Average lifespan: **Up to 20 years with proper care**

Average adult size: **6–9 inches long**

Diet: **Insectivore**

Minimum habitat size: **10 gallons for juveniles; 20+ gallons for adults**

Water temperature: **75–80 F for the cool side, 80–90 F for the warm side**

pH: **Under 50%**



Setup & Tank Maintenance

- If you have a young leopard gecko, set them up with at least a 10-gallon enclosure with a screened lid.
- Leopard geckos need a lot of heat to regulate their body temperatures, so you'll need to set up your tank with an under-tank heater, incandescent light, or a ceramic bulb.
- Leopard geckos need up to 12 hours of UV light daily, so your pet can get their heat and light from the same place.
- Keep habitat humidity levels below 50% and use your humidity gauge to measure daily humidity.
- Before cleaning, move your leopard gecko to a secure enclosure and remove decor, accessories, and old substrate. Scrub the tank and furnishings, rinse the habitat and accessories, and let everything completely dry before returning to the enclosure.

Supply Checklist

- Appropriately sized habitat
- Substrate
- Water and mealworm dishes
- Climbing décor and hideout box
- Plants
- Heat light or heat fixture
- Under-tank heater
- Thermostat
- Multivitamin and calcium supplements with and without vitamin D3
- Cricket keeper, cricket food, and cricket quencher
- Thermometer and humidity gauge
- Sphagnum moss
- UV light and fixture
- Plant mister



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Handling

Make sure you wash your hands before and after handling your leopard gecko or anything inside their habitat. Give your leopard gecko a few days before handling them to acclimate to their new habitat. Avoid holding your leopard gecko until they are at least 6 inches long.

Too much handling can stress your leopard gecko out. Limit holding, especially when they are shedding. Leopard geckos shed every four to eight weeks, so keep handling to a minimum during these times.

Fun fact ↻ It takes about 30 days for their new tail to regrow, but it never looks the same as the original.

Diet

Leopard geckos love live, recently fed insects, including worms, crickets, and roaches.

Young leopard geckos should get fed daily, while adults can eat meals every other day. Meals should be one to two insects, depending on their size, with added vitamin supplements based on their feeding schedule.

Health

Leopard geckos should have clear, clean eyes. If you notice swollen or sunken eyes or discharge that causes their eyes to stick shut, contact your vet immediately with your concerns.

If you notice any discharge around the vent or swollen ears, that's also a cause for concern. A sunken belly, refusing food, and stuck shedding might be signs of other health problems.

Fun fact

↻ They have functional eyelids, which means they can blink, and you might catch them sleeping with their eyes closed.

