



komodo[®]

CARE GUIDE

LEOPARD GECKO



CONGRATULATIONS! Leopard Geckos make great pets and we're sure you'll enjoy each other's company for many years to come. Choosing the correct enclosure and equipment is an important first step. Komodo reptile products are designed to ensure your new reptile pet gets off to a great start.

ABOUT LEOPARD GECKOS

Leopard Geckos (*Eublepharis macularius*) are one of the easiest and most rewarding lizards to keep. They are native to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Southern Asia and parts of India, inhabiting dry, rocky deserts and grassland. Pet Leopard Geckos grow to be around 20cm - 25cm in length and have an average lifespan of around 20 years, but some live much longer.

ENCLOSURE

Enclosures can range from W40xD30xH35cm to W60xD30xH45cm is suitable for Leopard Geckos of all ages. It is also suitable for other terrestrial gecko species, such as Fat Tailed Geckos and Madagascan Ground Geckos.

SUBSTRATE

Komodo Coconut Terrain is ideal substrates for the base of the vivarium. Add a layer approximately an inch thick and spot clean any soiled areas immediately. Replace the substrate completely every few weeks and be sure to clean and disinfect the enclosure before adding new bedding.

HEATING

Reptiles regulate their body temperature by moving between cooler and warmer areas. By installing the heat mat at one end of the enclosure on the side or back wall, your lizard can choose the temperature and location that suits them best. Leopard Geckos prefer relatively cooler temperatures ranging from 24°C (75°F) at the cool end of the enclosure and up to 32°C (90°F) in the basking area.

NEVER INSTALL HEAT MATS ON THE FLOOR OF THE ENCLOSURE AND THEN COVER, AND WITH SUBSTRATE.

CONTROL AND MONITORING

Check temperatures using the thermometer on the dual gauge. Komodo recommends that all heat mats are used with a suitable thermostat such as the Komodo Dimming Thermostat. Best practice recommends placing a thermometer at both the hot end and the cool end for regular monitoring of temperatures. ***Remember that Heat Mats emit infrared heat and thermometers must be in contact with the mat to register the temperature.***

HUMIDITY AND SHELTER

Although Leopard Geckos like dry habitats they spend much of their time in burrows where humidity is higher. These humidity shelters can be replicated in your enclosure by providing damp moss inside a series of shelters positioned in various areas of the terrarium. Provide lots of foliage and vivarium furniture so that your gecko has plenty of opportunities to hide.

LIGHTING

Be sure to switch off any lights in the enclosure at night and ensure the room in which they are kept is dark too.

ENRICHMENT

Add plenty of plants and shelters. These can be natural or artificial, whichever you like best. Cork bark and other vivarium furniture can be used to make shelters and platforms.

FEEDING

Pet Leopard Geckos are insectivorous, eating a live-food diet of crickets, locust and occasional wax worms. Offer food at least every other day and be sure to dust live food with appropriate supplements such as Komodo Advanced Nutri-Cal.



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HANDLING

After setting up your new enclosure, leave your Leopard Gecko to settle in before attempting to handle it. Once your gecko has eaten a few meals in succession, then it is time to start handling. Offer your hands as a perch, allowing your gecko to walk from one hand to another. Never grip your gecko tightly or restrict its movement. Leopard Geckos can drop their tail if they are stressed or threatened, and the re-grown tail is never as nice as the original. Be aware that Leopard Geckos can, and will, jump. Holding them close to the ground is a good idea, and be sure that your gecko cannot jump onto any dangerous surfaces. As with all animal care, thoroughly wash hands after handling or cleaning your gecko's enclosure.

IN CONCLUSION, Leopard Geckos are great companions and they are easy to care for. To the right are some timely reminders on Leopard Gecko care in the handy format of a checklist:



Leopard Gecko Checklist

DAILY

- Clean and refresh water bowl
- Check correct temperatures are being maintained
- Spot clean any waste
- Remove any uneaten insects
- Visually inspect Leopard Gecko
- Check and hydrate moss if required
- Feed if required
- Wash hands after servicing habitat or handling gecko

EVERY OTHER DAY

- Use dusting powder on food

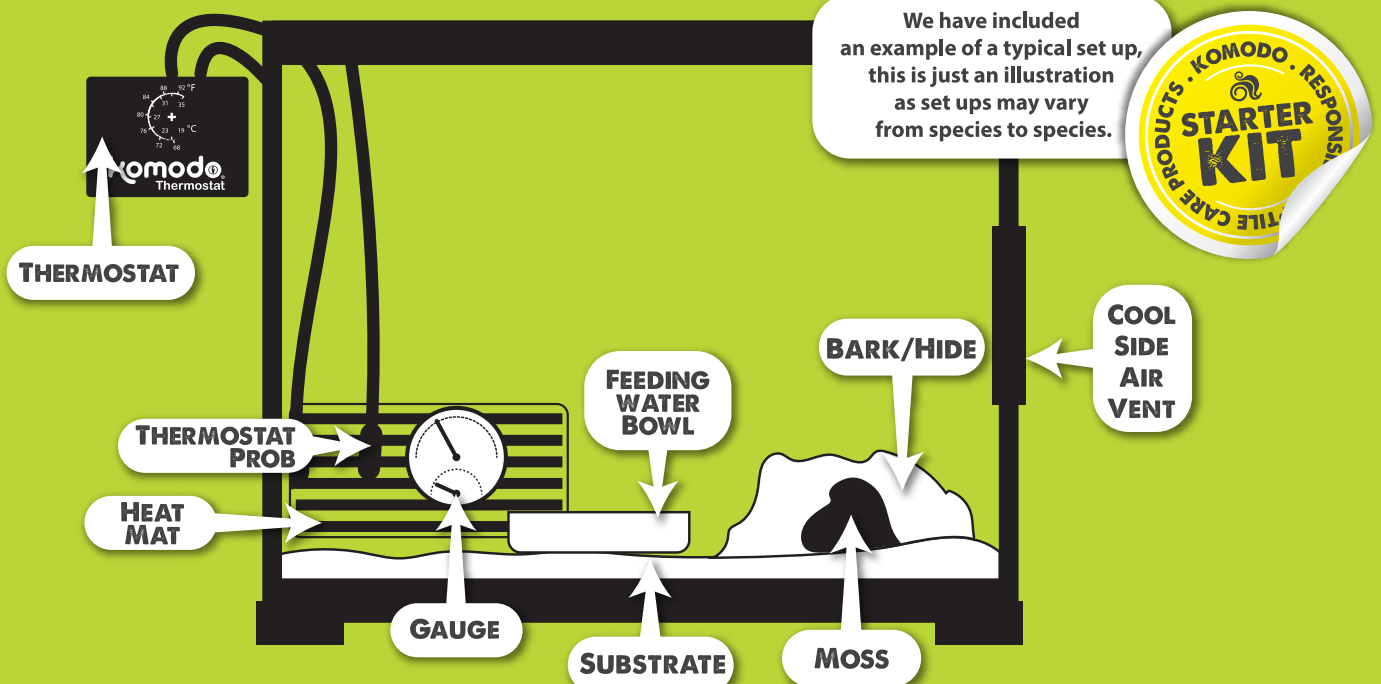
WEEKLY

- Clean glass
- Top up substrate
- Clean any decorative rocks, plants etc
- Physically inspect Leopard Gecko
- Physically inspect Snake
- Weigh Leopard Gecko and record data

SEMI-ANNUALLY

- Remove and replace all substrate

NOTE: This basic wellbeing guide will help to get you started. It highlights the most important information that every keeper needs to know, but new keepers should research the husbandry needs of their animal in detail.



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