

## **Leopard Gecko**

Scientific Name: *Eublepharis macularius*

Native to: Pakistan, Northern India, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan

Maximum Length: 7-9 inches

Life Span: 15-18 years

### **Characteristics:**

Leopard Geckos are one of the most popular reptile pets because they are calm and come in a wide variety of morphs. Unlike some other geckos, Leopard Geckos can open and close their eyes.

Leopard Geckos are active during dusk and dawn hours. Adults become very docile and are easy to breed. Leopard Geckos do shed their skin and their tails are fragile so be careful when you hold them. If there is an accident and the gecko “drops” its tail, it will grow back.

### **Care tips:**

Enclosure: A 10-gallon terrarium with a screen top is recommended for one Leopard Gecko. If you are housing two or more together, a 20-gallon long terrarium is needed. The ideal group is all females or one male and one or two females. House extra males in separate terrariums to prevent fighting.

Substrate: Reptile sand, coconut fiber, or reptile carpet can all be used as substrate.

Habitat: Decorate the Leopard Gecko terrarium with non-toxic plants, branches, logs, cork bark, and caves. Include small hiding places for your gecko. Also include dampened sphagnum moss under the hiding spot to help aid healthy shedding and to keep them hydrated.

Temperature and Lighting: Temperature during the day should be kept around 80-82° F with a warm area of 85-90° F at one end of the enclosure. Night temperature can be as low as 70° F. Humidity level should be kept low outside of the hiding spot. Keep the hiding spot around 80° F. We recommend an under-tank heater for controlling the cage temperature as these nocturnal geckos do not typically bask under a heat lamp. Leopard Geckos need 10-12 hours of light per day. They are nocturnal, so they do not require UVB lighting.

Food and Water: Provide clean, fresh, chlorine-free or spring water in a shallow bowl that cannot be tipped over. Feed your Leopard Gecko every two to three days. Juvenile Leopard Geckos will eat small crickets and mealworms daily. The sub adults will eat medium sized crickets, mealworms, and wax worms. Adults will eat large crickets, wax worms, and mealworms. Dust crickets lightly with vitamins and powdered calcium supplement every other feeding. Juvenile Leopard Geckos should be lightly misted twice weekly to help them shed their skin.