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# LEOPARD GECKO

*Eublepharis macularius*

**ORIGIN:** Leopard geckos are native to the deserts of the Middle East. However, your leopard gecko was born in captivity in the USA.

**SIZE:** Leopard geckos reach an average adult length of 7-11 inches.

**CAGING:** Leopard geckos will thrive in a variety of plastic and glass cages. A 10-gallon aquarium is large enough to house up to four adult geckos.

**SUBSTRATE:** Young leopard geckos should be kept on a substrate which will not be ingested such as newspaper or cage-carpet. Older geckos will thrive on mulch, bark, or sand.

**TEMPERATURE:** Leopard geckos should be provided with a thermal gradient ranging from 80°F at one end of the cage to 95°F at the other. This is easily achieved by placing a heat mat at one end of the enclosure.

**LIGHT:** Leopard geckos do not require any special lighting because they are nocturnal.

**WATER:** Leopard geckos should be provided with fresh, clean water at all times. A small, shallow water bowl should be used.

**DIET:** Leopard geckos feed on a variety of commercially available feeder insects including mealworms, crickets, and wax worms. Prior to feeding, insects should be dusted with a vitamin and mineral supplement powder for reptiles.

## RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- Glass enclosure, minimum 10-gallon
- Secure lid for enclosure
- Heat mat approximately half size of enclosure
- Thermometer with probe to monitor temperature
- Substrate as detailed above
- Literature about leopard gecko husbandry
- Hiding area such as cork bark or imitation rock
- Shallow water dish
- Shallow bowl for mealworms and calcium supplement
- Vitamin and mineral supplement

## OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

- Fluorescent light
- Colored incandescent bulb for nighttime viewing
- Silk plants and branches
- Decorative cage background
- Moist hide area

## SMALL ANIMAL & REPTILE REPLACEMENT GUARANTEE

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**NOTE:** The information contained in this caresheet solely represents the opinions of the author.

*It is not intended as a complete guide to captive husbandry.*