

CARE SHEET

(Eubleparis Macularius) or better known as a leopard gecko. They are one of the biggest if not largest species of geckos available and kept in homes today. This species is very unique and exciting considering all of the many different morphs, colors, patterns and sizes these amazing creatures come in. Leopard geckos are great reptiles to keep at home with their simple ease of care under correct conditions. Below are some easy tips on proper care of your gecko and proper conditions for optimal care and health.

1. HOUSING

A simple aquarium of 10 to 20 gallons will easily house two leopard geckos for their lifespan. A hide box should be used for added shelter inside the aquarium. This is your Leo's safety blanket and every gecko tank should have a hide box for them. They feel safe in here and will also dig holes in it as well to lay their eggs when the hide box is filled with some type of moist substrate

2. DIET

Leopard geckos diet consists of a variety of insects such as crickets, mealworms, super worms, dubia roaches and sometimes if your gecko is large enough than on some rare occasions pinkies. I have found that mealworms, super worms and dubia roaches work best for our geckos. You must gut load any type of insect that you plan on giving your Leo allow at least 12 or more hours to properly gut load your feeders. There are many types of gut loads on the market today you can pick some up at your local pet store or make your own with the many recipes available online. This ensures that you are giving your leopard gecko the proper vitamins and nutrients that it needs to stay healthy and problem free. When feeding the Leos you can also dust your food

with powdered supplements such as calcium and other vitamins for added nutrients to its diet.

3. WATER

A shallow water dish is a must for your Leo. Make sure it is small enough for your Leo to climb out of if it happens to go in the dish. Make sure there is constantly fresh water and usually would be replaced when cleaning the Leos cage or when feeding.

4. TEMPERATURE AND LIGHTING

The easiest way to heat cage is by using heat tape, under tank heater pad, or heat cable. Only heat one end of the cage to ensure that if your Leo is feeling to hot then he has a cooler side to go to. I do not recommend using any type of heating element that is not temperature controlled. Leos should have a living temp of about 86-90 degrees. They should be kept in a housed area where the ambient room temperature outside should be around 75 degrees. Leopard geckos are nocturnal and there fore need really no artificial lights, not even a UVB light.

5. SUBSTRATE

There are many types of substrates to use for your Leos cage. You can use artificial mats, paper towels, or newspapers for substrate. These all are easy to clean when it is time to clean your gecko's cage. I do not recommend using any type of sand or granulated substrate products. These types of substrates can negatively affect you Leo's health.

6. HANDLING AND TREATMENT

Leopard geckos can be handled on a regular basis once they are settled in to their new home. Juveniles should not be handled as much. Always make sure your hands are clean when handling Leos. Even the wildest Leo will start to calm down after being handled for about a week. Make sure to never grab a leopard gecko by the tail to ensure the Leo will not drop his tail. It will regenerate in about a month but it will not look the same as before. It can be stubbier and short then a non-generated tail.

7. SHEDDING

Leopard geckos will shed quite often especially during the growing stages of it's life. They will eat their shed and it is actually good for them to do so. Make sure to remove any excess shedding that the Leo can't seem to get off. This is usually around the toes of the Leos. If shed skin is left on the toes and goes unattended then your gecko will surely lose some of its toes.

8. GENERAL INFO

Leopard geckos tend to live anywhere on average from 6-10 years. They have been known to live much longer than that if taken care of properly most notably males.

There are many different types of leopard geckos to choose from such as Sunglows, Raptors, Snows, Enigmas, and Tangerines just to name a few.

Sizes of Leos can vary and many things can come into play as far as their growth goes such as proper feeding, nutrients, health and genes. A full size Leo can reach anywhere from 6-10 inches with giants reaching lengths of over a foot. A juvenile gecko will range in the size of about 4-5". A leopard gecko usually matures to adulthood in 9-18 months.

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There is tons of more information to obtain on this species. There are many books that offer a more in depth look at the leopard gecko such as different morph types, genetics, breeding, egg incubation and much more.