

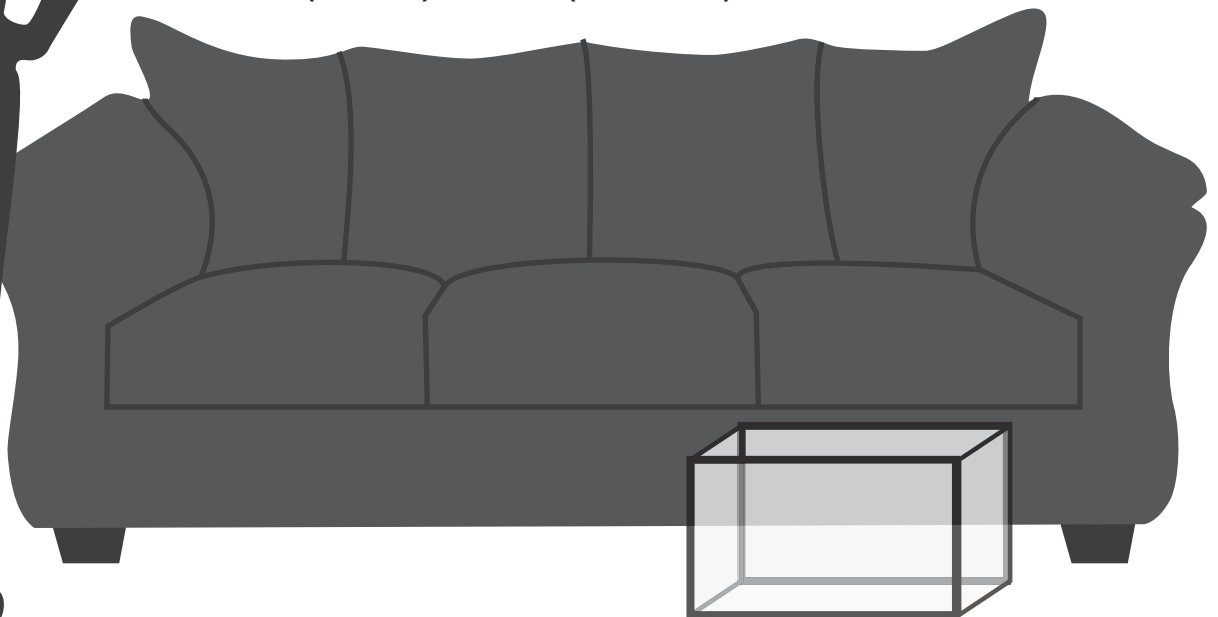
# Leopard Gecko

aka Spotted Fat-Tailed Gecko - Scientific Name: *Eublepharis macularius*

- Lifespan ..... Roughly 6 – 10 years; males 10 – 20; record 27+ years
- Diet ..... Carnivorous - feed daily or every other day. (See reverse for more information)
- Lighting ..... Can be dome lamp with incandescent bulbs for heat as well - 12 hr cycle
- Temps ..... Ambient cage temperature 75 F, with “hot area” of 88 to 90 F. Provide heat gradient
- Substrate ..... Newspaper, cypress mulch, orchid bark, reptile carpet, slate, ceramic tiles, nothing avoid cedar chips, gravel or sand!



The average human male is about 6' tall, adult Leopard Geckos are about 10" (male) or 8" (female)



The average couch is about 86"W, the minimum size enclosure for one adult Leopard Gecko is 20"W

For more information, visit: [www.mnherpsoc.org](http://www.mnherpsoc.org)



# Leopard Gecko

## In the Wild

### Distribution

- Eastern Turkey, eastern Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, northwestern India

### Habitat

- Deserts, rocky dry grassland

### Habits

- Takes shelter in burrows or under rocks (humid conditions in otherwise arid environment)
- Crepuscular or cathemeral • Primarily solitary
- Caudal autonomy – can drop tail for defense, new tail different shape and texture, ~40 days
- Lacks lamellae on toes; cannot scale smooth surfaces, has well developed claws
- Brumates during cool weather • TSD – first 2 weeks of incubation, females 79 – 84 and 93 – 95 F. and males 88 – 91 F.

### Diet

- Wide variety of invertebrates, occasionally small vertebrates
- Active hunter, uses sight, scent, and sound to locate prey
- Consumes shed skin (possibly nutritious) • Waves tail to distract prey • Stores fat in tail • Does not eat during brumation

## Captive Care

### Housing

- 10 or 20 gallon long tank for one or a pair of geckos (20 long)
- Substrate can be newspaper, cypress mulch, orchid bark, reptile carpet, slate, ceramic tiles, nothing, avoid cedar chips, gravel or sand!
- Sturdy water dish – water must be available at all times, misting cycle
- Two hide boxes (warm side, cool side) and a humid hide
- Humid hide damp paper towels, sphagnum moss, coconut fiber, vermiculite
- No branches, but live or plastic plants if desired

### Temperature and Lighting

- Ambient cage temperature 75 F, with “hot area” of 88 to 90 F. Provide heat gradient
- “Hot area” can be achieved by using radiant heat, heat pad on outside of cage, or both
- Lighting can be dome lamp with incandescent bulbs for heat as well - 12 hr cycle
- UVB lighting not necessary, but beneficial
- Thermometer (temp gun or probe) to measure actual temperature is a necessity
- Adjustable temperature heat pads or rheostats hooked to any heat source is beneficial

### Diet

- Carnivorous - variety of insects: crickets, dubia roaches, mealworms, superworms, silkworms, hornworms, butterworms. Wax worms and pinky mice only rarely (increase weight)
- Fruit or other baby food as occasional treat
- Supplemental calcium without vitamin D3 (no phosphorus) added
- Options for supplementation – gut loading prey, dusting prey, leave as powder in shallow bowl (gut loading is best)
- Feed daily or every other day\* Remove uneaten live prey

### Special Notes

- Several problems – crypto, coccidia, MBD, anorexia, impaction, stuck shed, etc.
- Keep singly, especially males, one male and few females, few females OK, but watch closely!
- Widely bred in captivity; many different captive produced color morphs known
- Vocalizes – barks, squeals, screams
- Turns white before shedding
- Watch for retained shed on toes, limbs, and around eyes – can cause problems (loss of toes)
- Usually defecates in one area of its enclosure

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