



Lone Mountain

••• ANIMAL HOSPITAL •••



Introduction to Leopard Geckos

Housing

Juveniles and adults should be housed separately to prevent cannibalism
Do not place more than one sexually mature male in the same enclosure as they will fight and may even kill each other to defend territory

May keep females in small groups but ensure there are sufficient hiding areas
For housing one to two leopard geckos, use a 10 gallon aquarium.

Up to four adults can be housed in a 20 gallon long aquarium (30in x12inx 12in).

The cage should have a screen top for adequate ventilation

Acceptable substrates include paper towels, newspaper indoor-outdoor carpeting or plastic grass matting
Leopard geckos may ingest bedding material causing intestinal impaction, which can be fatal

Coarse sand, corncob, walnut shell and/or sand-like calcium ground litter as substrates are not recommended

Caves and hide-boxes must be provided for security and places to retreat during day light hours

Excerpts from Melissa Kaplan at www.anapsid.org, Leopard Gecko Captive Care and Breeding by Teresa Bradley, DVM, and The Exotic Guidebook-Zoological Education Network . Edited by Dana Rocco, Veterinary Assistant, and reviewed by Jacqueline Saint-Onge DVM, and Darius Starks, DVM Lone Mountain Animal Hospital

Distribution and Description

Native to semiarid desert areas of the Middle East and parts of western Indian
Terrestrial and rarely are seen climbing in trees and bushes
Spotted lizards which come in an array of color morphs and patterns

Sexing

Males have femoral pores and hemipenes bulge just behind their vent

Size

Large males can reach up to 8 inches, but around 6 inches is common for both sexes

Diet

Carnivores- offer commercially available insects like crickets, mealworms, and small Dubia roaches
Gut loading live prey items is recommended with a commercially available gut load diet
Calcium supplementation in the form of dusting prey items is recommended
Feed young animals every day and feed adults 3-4 times per week

Temperature

Basking area: 90-95 F
Ambient air temperature: 70-80 F
Monitor temperatures with at least 2 thermometers - one in the basking area and one on the 'cool side' to measure ambient air temperature
Heat rocks are not recommended

Lighting

Nocturnal and therefore do not require access to ultraviolet B (UVB) rays.
All that is needed is normal 12 hour light cycle for viewing

Humidity

Humidity should be maintained at around 30% for most of the year
Provide humidity boxes (dampened microclimate) help to facilitate shedding
To make a humidity box, place slightly moistened compressed coconut fiber, paper towels or sphagnum moss in a hide/nest box

Ease of Care/ Handling

Hearty lizards that are highly recommended for first time reptile owners
Consistent handling of young leopard geckos makes them more comfortable around people and the better pets

Remember

Leopard geckos have a defense mechanism called autotomy – when threatened they can 'drop' their tail
Tails will regrow in 2-6 weeks, but will have a different pattern of colors and skin texture

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