

Leopard Gecko Quick Fact Sheet

Temperature - 28° to 32° C (84°-90°F) during the day and 20° to 22°C (69°-74°F) at night.

Water - Fresh water should be provided every 2-3 days. Placing a small stone in the water will prevent crickets from drowning in the dish.

Feeding - Feed the leopard geckos approximately 3-4 mealworms/per gecko offered in a small dish with smooth sides. Vitamin and calcium powder should be added to mealworms and wax worms. Too many mealworms at once can result in an intestinal blockage in your gecko. Crickets should be dusted with vitamin and calcium powder each time they are added to the habitarium. .

Crickets - Keeping crickets alive requires providing adequate water and food. Food can be in the form of vegetables but care should be taken not to let the vegetables rot. The bacteria and fungi will kill off the crickets. Some vegetables should be placed in the habitarium to keep the crickets inside healthy.

Cleaning - Fecal matter should be removed when found. Leopard geckos usually defecate in one area of their tank, which makes cleaning easy. Use of a scoop is the most effective way of removing feces from the habitarium.

Hygiene - Domestically bred leopard geckos do not carry diseases that affect humans. Salmonella typically occurs with aquatic animals that are not kept clean. Since the leopard geckos live in a dry environment, salmonella is not an issue; however, students should be instructed to wash their hands after handling the animals and cleaning the habitarium. This is a practice that should be followed with any animal, reptile or otherwise.

Handling - The animals should only be handled with the supervision of an adult. The geckos should be scooped up with an open hand and permitted to walk over the hands freely using a hand over hand technique. **Never pick them up by closing your hand around them.** Doing so may result in injury to the gecko. At first, they should only be handled in the enclosure. Once they become more accustomed to handling, they can be taken out of the habitarium. Care should be taken never to hold the animals too high above any surface. If they fall, even from a moderate height, they can suffer internal injury that may lead to death. **Do not hold the gecko's tail - it can fall off.** As long as they are handled gently, leopard geckos will not bite. If a bite should occur that actually breaks the skin, clean the bite with a providine solution and bandage.