

Leopard Gecko

(*Eublepharis macularius*)

INMAGINE™
IMAGINE THE DIFFERENCE

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|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Country of Origin | Middle East |
| Average Size | 6 - 8 Inches |
| Temperament | Calm, Handleable as Adults |
| Food Source | Livefood |
| Experience Level | Beginner |



The leopard gecko is the most common lizard around. It is the most popular as a pet, easy to keep, attractive to look at, low priced for both lizard and setup, and ideal for all ages and levels of experience. Leopard Geckos come from the eastern part of The Middle East. They live in dry desert regions and make their home underneath rocks. Active throughout the night, beginning at dusk, these lizards live in groups of one male to several females in the wild. They are one of the few geckos that lack the ability to climb straight up glass like most. These animals are more docile than most geckos, but will lose their tail if threatened. They are yellow with a varying amount of black spots. Some have light grey/white banding beneath the spots, left over from the juvenile period. Juveniles are black and yellow striped. There are currently over 20 different leopard gecko morphs, and a huge variety of colours and patterns to choose from.

Leopard geckos do not require a great deal of space, a pair can be housed in a 24 x 15 x 15 tank. Ample hides should be provided, and a box filled with moss and kept damp will help during shedding. These lizards will climb a small amount, so a few low, sturdy basking branches or rocks should be placed beneath the light. The substrate should be sand. Day temperatures should be up to 95F, whilst night time temperatures can fall to 75F. A black or red light is recommended as bright lights can hurt the leopard gecko's eyes. Unlike most lizards, no UVB lighting is required, as in the wild the leopard gecko will never emerge during the daytime, and never receive the UVB rays from the sun.

Leopard geckos are insectivorous and will take crickets, mealworms, and waxworms. Some people even feed the very occasional pinkie mouse as a treat. The geckos will hunt down the insects during the night time period. A shallow water bowl is recommended, and should be changed daily.

These lizards will breed readily with no special action on your part. The females will lay around 2 eggs per clutch, up to 6 clutches per breeding season. During this season they should be fed extra. The male will pin and grab the female's head, this is normal, so do not be alarmed. One male will usually copulate easily with up to five females. In gravid females the eggs can be seen through the body. Eggs will need to be removed immediately and incubated to successfully hatch. If your geckos are breeding and you do not want the eggs to hatch, simply throw them away or leave them and they will become infertile within a day or two.

In conclusion, an ideal starter species for any age.

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